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HOUSE OF COMMONS

OFFICIAL REPORT

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
FIFTY-NINTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

SESSION 2010–2011

COMPRISING PERIOD
11 October 2010—22 October 2010

HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT

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(FORMED BY THE RT HON. DAVID CAMERON, MP, MAY 2010)

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11 October 2010

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 11 October 2010

CABINET OFFICE

Government Efficiency Review

The Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General (Mr Francis Maude): On 13 August, Sir Philip Green was commissioned by the Prime Minister to conduct an external review of Government efficiency. Sir Philip submitted his findings and recommendations to the Chief Secretary of the Treasury and me on 7 October. We are grateful to Sir Philip and his team from Arcadia for the time and effort they have taken to produce their recommendations. Their findings clearly demonstrate the scale of inefficiency and waste present in the system today. It is clear that there is a huge opportunity and a real willingness on behalf of civil servants to take on the important task of delivering efficiency. We welcome the sense of urgency that Sir Philip has brought to this work and are looking at how we can best take forward key recommendations. The review will be placed on the Cabinet Office website.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Conference Adjournment 2010

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr Eric Pickles): I would like to update hon. Members on the main items of business undertaken by my Department during the Conference Adjournment 2010.

Transparency

The Department is continuing its commitment to deliver transparent and open government. Ahead of the requirement in November for all central Government Departments to publish monthly details of spend over £25,000, my Department has published the details of its spend over £500 for the first quarter of 2010-11 and for 2008-09. This follows the publication, in August, of 2009-10 spending details.

We have been working with the Local Government Association on measures to increase transparency in councils including new guidance from the LGA detailing best practice for putting council spending and senior salary information online. Over 60 councils have already published the details of their spend over £500 ahead of their January deadline.

On 29 September my Department published for consultation a proposed new statutory code of recommended practice on local authority publicity. The proposals are intended to stop taxpayers' money being squandered on town hall newspapers or hired lobbyists. An independent local press is an essential part of our open democracy helping local people scrutinise and hold elected councillors to account. The proposed new rules around council publicity will restrict council newspapers to four times a year. The proposed code will also guard against councils using public funds to hire lobbyists to campaign. A copy of the proposed code has been placed in the House of Commons Library. Subject to the consultation, I intend before the end of the year to seek parliamentary approval to the proposed code, after which it will come into force.

Supporting local people

When times are tough Government have a duty to treat the public fairly. The Exchequer Secretary and I confirmed on 23 September that the Government would not carry out a council tax revaluation in England during the lifetime of this Parliament. An unnecessary and expensive revaluation could lead to increased council tax bills. Taxpayers now know there will be no unexpected council tax revaluation hikes in the next five years.

A local authority breakdown of the property attribute information collected on people's homes, including number of bedrooms, patios, value significant gardens and scenic views, has also been published in the interests of transparency to make the public aware of the datasets that have been gathered under the last Government.

In addition, an independent data protection audit of the Valuation Office Agency's (VOA) council tax database is to be carried out to make sure people's privacy is protected when the agency assesses properties and stores data. This is in keeping with the coalition's desire to defend civil liberties, and to restore the rights of individuals.

On 1 October small business rate relief doubled for over half a million small businesses for one year as part of the Government's emergency budget commitments to help invest in growth. This means 345,000 businesses will pay no rates at all. We have also announced a package of practical advice and training for traditional market traders, to support existing markets and help potential enterprising traders get started.

Changes to rules contained in the Mortgage Repossessions (Protection of Tenants etc) Act 2010 have increased protections for tenants who face having their home repossessed through no fault of their own. For the first time tenants will be able to attend the repossession court hearing and judges will be able to take their situation into account and delay repossessions proceedings by up to two months.

We are changing the way in which parish councils can make payments. Currently parish councils make payments through cheques that must be counter-signed by two members of the council, changes will mean that they will be able to use modern banking methods such as electronic banking. This will save time and benefit many small private companies who will get paid faster.

Decentralisation

The Department is continuing to push power and control down away from the centre.

The announcement of plans to introduce legislation to scrap the housing revenue account and replace it with a system allowing councils to keep the rents and receipts from right to buy sales that they collect was made on 5 October. This will give councils greater financial freedom to meet the housing needs of their local communities.

The Government are committed to freeing up councils and cutting red tape. We have launched a consultation setting out our plans to streamline the current three sets of regulations and orders covering tree preservation orders in England into one document. The change has the potential to save local councils more than £500,000 in administration costs each year. The new regulations will reduce paperwork, simplify the process of protecting trees and provide a fairer, more straightforward and effective system for tree preservation.

Decentralisation and pooling budgets

We have already set out plans to decentralise power to individuals, neighbourhoods, front-line professionals and local institutions.

Individuals are being put in charge of their lives through personal budgets, for example on adult social care and childcare, or choice, such as which hospital to use or over who runs the police.

Community groups and neighbourhoods will be in charge of planning and responsible for delivering more and more public services. Public sector professionals will be using their judgment over how best to run services, for example with GPs in control of commissioning and heads running schools.

Local government will have a general power of competence and increased freedom to run services free from central diktat, with hundreds of targets already abolished and over £1 billion of ring-fenced funding already removed in 2010-11—with much more to be removed through the spending review.

Moving forward, our goal is to see the public sector operate in a much more unified way to maximise the resource available to us to tackle social problems. That means getting different organisations and agencies to work together in a way that simply has not happened in the past.

We are putting in place national welfare to work and offender rehabilitation schemes, operating on a payment by results basis. But we do not just want that important support to be done by central Government—local government should be involved too, putting its own funding and expertise into developing enhanced programmes to work alongside the core work that we are doing nationwide.

We will put local councils in the driving seat to join up public services, pooling resources across the public sector to tackle social problems. We want elected mayors to trail-blaze such initiatives, not least since elected mayors in our cities will be embraced by the public if they have real power. So we will create the opportunity for mayors to bring together different devolved budgets and pool them with our national payment-by-results systems. Together, mayors will be able to help design services specifically targeted at the hardest-to-help families. They will be able to add their own budgets—social services, care, housing, health improvement—to the national programmes. This will give local communities the power to change lives, and help save money at the same time. I would expect to make a further announcement to the House in due course.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

European Union Bill (Sovereignty)

The Minister for Europe (Mr David Lidington): The coalition programme for Government said that the Government would examine the case for a United Kingdom Sovereignty Bill affirming that ultimate authority remains with Parliament.

The common law is already clear on this. Parliament is sovereign. EU law has effect in the UK because—and solely because—Parliament wills that it should. Parliament chose to pass the European Communities Act 1972. That was the act of a sovereign Parliament.

The Government have explored how to ensure that this fundamental principle of parliamentary sovereignty is upheld in relation to EU law. We have assessed whether the common law provides sufficient ongoing and unassailable protection for that principle. Our assessment is that to date, case law has upheld that principle. But we have decided to put the matter beyond speculation by placing this principle on a statutory footing.

In the autumn, the Government will legislate to underline that what a sovereign Parliament can do, a sovereign Parliament can always undo. A clause to this effect will be included in the European Union Bill.

This clause will not alter the existing UK legal order on a day to day basis in relation to EU law. And it will be in line with the practice of other member states, like Germany. Although they have a different constitutional framework, they have given effect to EU law through a sovereign Act.

Global Abolition of the Death Penalty

The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Mr Jeremy Browne): I wish to make the House aware that I will publicly launch HMG's strategy on global abolition of the death penalty at an event in the FCO today to mark the world day and European day against the death penalty.

This strategy sets out the UK's policy on the death penalty, and identifies three goals to support our overarching objective of global abolition. First we will aim to further increase the number of abolitionist countries, or countries with a moratorium on the use of the death penalty. Secondly we want to secure further restrictions on the use of the death penalty in retentionist countries and reductions in the numbers of executions, and thirdly we will aim to ensure that EU minimum standards on the death penalty, such as fair trial rights and non-execution of juveniles, are met in countries which retain the death penalty.

Promoting human rights and democracy is a priority for the UK. We oppose the death penalty in all circumstances as a matter of principle because we believe it undermines human dignity; there is no conclusive evidence of its deterrent value; and any miscarriage of justice leading to its imposition is irreversible and irreparable.

A copy of the strategy will be placed in the Library of the House and published on the FCO website (www.fco.gov.uk) by 12 October.

HEALTH

National Dementia Strategy

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Paul Burstow): The Government published a new outcomes focused implementation plan for the National Dementia Strategy on 28 September 2010. "Quality outcomes for people with dementia: building on the work of the National Dementia Strategy" has been placed in the Library and copies are available to hon. Members in the Vote Office. The document is also available electronically at: www.dh.gov.uk/en/Aboutus/Features/DH_119830.

Raising the quality of care for people with dementia and their carers is a major priority under this Government. The key purpose of "Quality outcomes for people with dementia: building on the work of the National Dementia Strategy" is to set out for health and social care localities and their delivery partners:

> the Department of Health's role and its priorities during 2010-11 for supporting local delivery of and local accountability for the implementation of "Living Well with Dementia—A National Dementia Strategy";
>
> the strategy's fit with the new vision for the future of health and social care as set out in the White Paper "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS"; and
>
> the fit with the consultation document "Liberating the NHS: Transparency in outcomes—a framework for the NHS".

"Living well with Dementia—A National Dementia Strategy"[1] was launched in February 2009 following an extensive consultation process, with the aim of improving the quality of care for people with dementia and their carers. It is a five-year strategy containing 17 objectives to transform dementia services. Some £150 million has been made available to primary care trusts in the first two years—£60 million in 2009-10 and £90 million in 2010-11—to implement the strategy, but without a ring-fence on the funding or targets. Alongside delivery of the strategy, work is under way to implement the recommendations of Professor Sube Banerjee's report into the over-prescribing of anti-psychotic drugs for people with dementia[2]. Professor Banerjee's report has been placed in the Library and is available at:

> www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_108303.

"Quality outcomes for people with dementia: building on the work of the National Dementia Strategy" provides an implementation plan that reflects the principles of the White Paper "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS"[3], the consultation document "Liberating the NHS: Transparency in outcomes—a framework for the NHS"[4] and the current economic and political landscape, where the Department's role is more enabling and less directive.

The new implementation plan identifies four priority objectives for the Department's work during 2010-11 to support local delivery of the strategy. These areas provide a real focus on activities that are likely to have the greatest impact on improving quality outcomes for people with dementia and their carers. The four priority objectives are:

> good-quality early diagnosis and intervention for all;
>
> improved quality of care in general hospitals;
>
> living well with dementia in care homes; and
>
> reduced use of anti-psychotic medication.

The Government have commissioned a national audit of dementia services, which is establishing the provision of dementia services across the country. The audit will provide local NHS and social care organisations with a measure of their progress in key areas including the use of senior clinical leads for dementia in hospitals, establishment of memory services, reducing the use of anti-psychotic medication and expenditure on dementia services, so that they can drive forward action to accelerate improvements in dementia care. The initial results are expected by the end of the year.

The revised NHS operating framework for 2010-11 highlights that the NHS and its partners must give a greater priority to dementia. Local organisations will be expected to publish how they are delivering on quality outcomes so that they can be held to account by local people. This expectation along with the data generated by the national audit will create much greater transparency.

The Government are working with the Alzheimer's Society to develop a National Dementia Declaration, which is due to be launched in autumn 2010. This is a sector-wide initiative, led by the Alzheimer's Society, which involves a wide range of national organisations. It will be a call to action to improve the quality of life outcomes for people with dementia and their carers.

The Government support the implementation of the "End of Life Care Strategy", published in 2008, which aims to improve end of life care for all adults, including those with dementia. The Government have also confirmed its commitment to improving quality and choice in palliative and end of life care in "Equity and excellence: Liberating the NHS", which includes the commitment to move towards a national choice offer to support people's preferences about how to have a good death.

"Quality outcomes for people with dementia: building on the work of the National Dementia Strategy" reflects the Government's commitment to ensure a greater focus on accelerating the pace of improvement through local delivery of and local accountability for achieving quality outcomes in dementia care.

At the heart of this vision is the Government's commitment to putting patients and the public first; improving health and social care outcomes; ensuring autonomy, accountability, democratic legitimacy and improving efficiency.

As highlighted in the National Dementia Strategy, the pace of implementation will vary depending on local circumstances and the level and development of services within each NHS and local government area. It describes what the Department of Health considers as its priorities for policy development in its role of enabler for continued progress in improving outcomes for people with dementia and their carers.

A key element of this new outcomes focused approach is ensuring greater transparency and provision of information to individuals so that they have a good understanding of their local services, how these compare to other services, and the level of quality that they can expect. Local organisations will be expected to publish how they are delivering on quality outcomes so that they can be held to account by local people.

Notes

[1] "Living well with dementia: A National Dementia Strategy", Department of Health, 3 February 2009.

[2] The use of antipsychotic medication for people with dementia: Time for action—A report for the Minister of State for Care Services by Professor Sube Banerjee, 12 November 2009.

[3] The NHS White Paper: "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS", Department of Health, 12 July2010.

[4] "Liberating the NHS: Transparency in outcomes—a framework for the NHS".

HOME DEPARTMENT

Equality and Human Rights Commission (Triennial Review)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Lynne Featherstone): The first triennial review of the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC), "How Fair is Britain?", has been laid before the House. Copies will be made available in the Vote Office.

JUSTICE

Family Courts: Part 2 of the Children, Schools and Families Act 2010

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Jonathan Djanogly): The Under-Secretary of State for Education, the Minister with responsibility for children and families, my hon. Friend the Member for East Worthing and Shoreham (Tim Loughton) and I wish to make the following statement to the House about part 2 of the Children, Schools and Families Act 2010.

The Act received Royal Assent in April, but the provisions in part 2, which relate to the reporting of family court proceedings by the media, have not yet been commenced. This is a sensitive issue, on which a broad range of views have been strongly expressed. It is important that the family justice system is properly understood and commands public confidence. At the same time, there is a clear need to protect the privacy of vulnerable children and adults involved in cases in the family courts. My hon. Friend and I have decided to wait until the family justice review has published its final report before determining whether to commence these provisions, which will allow us to consider the changes part 2 of the Act would introduce in light of the review's recommendations for reform of the family justice system.

PRIME MINISTER

European Council (16 September 2010)

The Prime Minister (Mr David Cameron): I attended the European Council meeting on 16 September, with the Foreign Secretary.

The focus of the Council discussion was how to strengthen the EU's relationships with emerging powers, notably in advance of the EU-China and EU-India summits on 6 October and 10 December respectively.

The Foreign Secretary and I had three clear objectives for the Council.

The first objective was that the Council recognise that trade should be at the heart of the European Union's engagement with strategic partners. The Council conclusions contain strong language on this.

The second objective was to secure the EU-Korea free trade agreement. This was signed at the EU-South Korea summit on 6 October and will now be put to the European Parliament. It will enter into force on 1 July 2011.

The third objective was to ensure that the European Council conclusions made a clear statement of European support for Pakistan in response to the devastating floods that the country has suffered.

Leaders agreed a declaration on Pakistan which commits the EU to providing humanitarian aid, development assistance and new trade concessions to Pakistan. On trade, the declaration confirms that the EU will grant exclusively to Pakistan the immediate reduction of duties on key imports to the EU. Furthermore, the declaration confirms the EU's commitment to Pakistan's eligibility for a package of trade concessions that the Commission estimates to be worth over €1 billion annually known as GSP+.

On 7 October the Commission adopted a significant package of trade measures for Pakistan which suspends tariffs on a further 27% of Pakistani imports into the EU. It is estimated to be worth each year around €100 million in additional trade and €80 million in tariff savings. This will be put to the Council later this month.

The Council also approved a declaration on the middle east peace process. This strongly welcomes the launch of direct negotiations, calls for an extension of the settlements moratorium and offers support for the US-led efforts.

President Van Rompuy gave a progress report on the work of his taskforce on economic governance ahead of wider discussion at the European Council on 28 and 29 October.

Copies of the Council conclusions have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 12 October 2010

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Higher Education (Student Finance)

The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Vince Cable): Lord Browne of Madingley today presented the Government with the findings of the independent review of higher education funding and student finance.

The review was tasked with making recommendations to Government on the future of fees policy and financial support for full and part-time undergraduate and postgraduate students in England.

The report is the culmination of months of diligent inquiry by Lord Browne and his panel of experts. They have taken evidence from a wide range of people including students, the higher education sector and business.

We will judge their recommendations against the criteria set out in the coalition agreement, including the need to:

increase social mobility;

take into account the impact on student debt;

ensure a properly funded university sector;

improve the quality of teaching;

advance scholarship; and

attract a higher proportion of students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

I am placing a copy of the report in the Libraries of both Houses. Copies will also be available from both the Vote and Printed Paper Office. Electronic copies are available on the BIS website.

I intend to respond to the report in an oral statement to the House at 3.30pm today.

DEFENCE

Light Protected Patrol Vehicle (Preferred Bidder)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Peter Luff): I am pleased to announce the successful outcome of the light protected patrol vehicle (LPPV) competition for a new vehicle to replace the existing Snatch Land Rovers and Weapons Mount Installation Kit (WMIK) vehicles on operations in Afghanistan. Following a rigorous trial and assessment phase, preferred bidder status has been awarded to Force Protection Europe for an initial tranche of 200 vehicles, subject to successful completion of contract negotiations. This initial tranche will be procured through the urgent operational requirements process, and we expect the first vehicles to be delivered for training in 2011. Further buys of LPPV will be subject to the confirmation of our wider requirement, which will be confirmed by the strategic defence and security review and defence planning round. Force Protection Europe's vehicle represents leading edge technology and will provide an unprecedented balance of protection, weight and agility for a vehicle of its class. The vehicle is a new design developed specifically to meet the requirements of UK armed forces, and is only now possible due to the considerable investment by the Ministry of Defence and UK Industry in this technology. LPPV is a UK design, and will be manufactured in the UK, creating or sustaining over 750 UK jobs. LPPV is also ideally placed to take advantage of the export market, which the Government are fully committed to supporting.

HEALTH

NHS Constitution (Whistleblowing)

The Secretary of State for Health (Mr Andrew Lansley): On 9 June I made a statement to the House about the failings of the Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust, *Official Report*, column 333. I made clear my intention to hold a full public inquiry into how these failings have continued unchallenged and undetected for so long.

A culture of fear and secrecy had pervaded this trust, leaving its staff feeling unable to raise concerns. Therefore, I set out action needed prior to the publication of the inquiry's findings in March 2011. Specifically, I made it clear that I intended to initiate work on whistleblowing, to improve conditions and procedures for those who wished to raise concerns.

Today, I am launching a public consultation on amendments to the NHS constitution and its handbook, which are concerned with making clear the rights and responsibilities of NHS staff and their employers in respect of whistleblowing.

The consultation proposes three key changes:

highlighting existing legal rights of all staff to raise concerns about safety, malpractice or other wrongdoing without suffering any detriment;

introduce an NHS pledge that employers will support all staff in raising such concerns, responding to and where necessary investigating the concerns raised; and

create an expectation that NHS staff will raise concerns about safety, malpractice or wrongdoing at work which may affect patients, the public, other staff or the organisation itself as early as possible.

Responses from all interested parties are welcome. The consultation and response form have been placed in the Library and copies are available to hon. Members in the Vote Office. The documents can also be found at: http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/index.htm.

The consultation closes on 11 January 2011.

I am pleased to say that this consultation follows significant progress already made on whistleblowing since June. On 25 June 2010 new guidance was published for the NHS, developed through the social partnership forum (SPF) with expert support and advice from the independent whistleblowing charity Public Concern at Work.

Designed to support NHS organisations who are in the process of updating or creating whistleblowing policies and procedures, the guidance promotes best practice. It suggests simple steps to help NHS organisations ensure their whistleblowing arrangements are fit for purpose. The guidance can be found on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_4050929.

In addition, the NHS Staff Council has negotiated changes to the terms and conditions of service handbook for NHS staff covered by Agenda for Change, to include a contractual right and duty to raise concerns in the public interest. A circular to NHS organisations informing them of these changes was published on 13 September 2010 with immediate effect. Both these are available on the NHS employers website at:

www.nhsemployers.org/PayAndContracts/Pay%20circulars/Agenda-for-Change/Pages/2010.aspx.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Procedures Committee Annual Report

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Lynne Featherstone): In accordance with section 20(5) of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986, the Committee's annual report for 2009 has today been laid before the House. Copies are available in the Vote Office. The report includes details of:

A Committee report and Minister's response on appropriate methods of humane killing for fish.

A Committee report and Minister's response to the strengths and weaknesses of the current system of severity limits as a way of prospectively assessing suffering and severity.

Committee correspondence on progress with the revision of Directive 86/609.

The Committees programme of work for 2010 onwards.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

UN Millennium Development Goals Summit

The Secretary of State for International Development (Mr Andrew Mitchell): The Deputy Prime Minister and I represented the UK at the United Nations millennium development goals summit which took place on 20-22 September 2010. World leaders, civil society organisations and prominent business leaders gathered to agree the action needed to meet the millennium development goals by 2015 and lift millions of people out of poverty.

The UK's main objective for the summit was to secure renewed momentum in the global fight against poverty and to agree an ambitious approach to reaching the millennium development goals by 2015. It was an opportunity to reinforce the UK's reputation as a serious and committed world leader on development. The Deputy Prime Minister reiterated the UK's commitment to reaching 0.7% of GNI in aid from 2013 and challenged others to live up to their promises.

The UK focused its efforts on securing a major push on the most off-track millennium development goals, particularly women's and children's health. UN Secretary-General's Ban Ki-moon's Every Woman Every Child event launched a global strategy aimed at saving the lives of more than 16 million women and children. At the event the Deputy Prime Minister set out the UK's new commitment to save the lives of at least 50,000 women in pregnancy and childbirth, 250,000 newborn babies and enable 10 million couples to access modern methods of family planning over the next five years.

With the support of UK leadership, the event generated an unprecedented $40 billion in resources for maternal and child health. As important as the financial commitments was the wide range of partners that came behind the strategy. Developing countries were prominent: Afghanistan and Yemen pledged to increase access to family planning and safe births, and Nigeria committed to spend a share of oil revenues on healthcare. Significant new commitments also came from the private sector (Johnson & Johnson committed $200 million over the next five years), charities, NGOs (World Vision International committed $1.5 billion over five years) and international organisations.

The UK also co-hosted a high profile side event on malaria, which challenged leaders from both rich and poor countries to do more to save lives needlessly lost every day to this disease. The event succeeded in generating impressive new support. I announced our commitments to help halve the number of deaths caused by malaria in at least 10 African countries by 2015 by increasing access to malaria prevention, diagnostics and treatment backed by an increase in funding up to £500 million per year by 2014.

I also announced the UK's support for the scaling up nutrition (SUN) "1,000 days" campaign at a side event co-hosted by Hilary Clinton. This initiative and the nutrition leaders group which will help drive this forward.

UK leadership was also commended for its increased focus on results and mutual accountability. The UK pressed and secured an annual review mechanism as part of the summit's outcome document. Work is under way to record all of the policy and financial commitments, not just from Governments, made at the summit. There was a clear commitment from the Ban Ki-moon to ensure that all sides will be held accountable.

The summit ended with the formal adoption of the outcome document "Keeping the Promise: United to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals"—a copy of which will be placed in the Library of the House of Commons. This important document sets out a path towards meeting the MDGs, giving a lifeline to millions of the world's poorest people. The UK Government are now focused on ensuring that we and our partners around the world maximise our efforts to reach the millennium development goals in the next five years and live up to our promises to the world's poorest people.

Pakistan Floods

The Secretary of State for International Development (Mr Andrew Mitchell): I would like to update the House on the humanitarian situation in Pakistan following the floods and on the UK Government's response.

It is now nearly two months since the floods hit. The situation, particularly in Southern Sindh province, continues to be extremely difficult. Some 7.3 million people there have been affected. Of this total, 2.3 million people are in need of immediate assistance. Significant shortfalls continue in the distribution of relief across all sectors and capacity to respond is stretched. The World Food

Programme continues to drop food rations by air and public buildings such as schools still house tens of thousands of people. The full extent of loss and damage may not be known for several weeks as many areas remain under water.

In other areas of Pakistan, the situation is mixed. In Punjab, the majority of the 5.3 million people affected have now returned to their home areas and the focus is beginning to shift from emergency relief to early recovery. In Khyber Paktunkwha most of the 3.8 million people affected have returned home and are beginning to rebuild their lives. Approximately 1 million internally displaced persons are gradually returning to Sindh from Balochistan. The monsoon season is now drawing to a close and snow has already been reported in the northern mountainous regions reflecting the seasonal change to winter.

The scale and shifting patterns of both displacement and return means it remains a challenge to achieve the necessary pace and scale of response. The UN continues to build up its surge capacity and improve co-ordination. NGOs are beginning to improve their reach in Sindh province. The Government of Pakistan are responding through the relevant provincial disaster management authorities and are still delivering relief through the Pakistan military in Sindh province.

Meeting the remaining emergency relief and early recovery needs of the critically affected population remains our immediate priority. To date UKAid has helped approximately:

900,000 people receive health care services;

620,000 people receive clean drinking water;

425,000 people benefit from the distribution of over 60,000 hygiene kits;

1 million people receive hygiene awareness sessions;

420,000 people benefit from shelter kits; and

36,000 and 48,000 pregnant and lactating women receive nutritional supplements.

Given the changing nature of the situation support is now needed to help Pakistan recover from the floods. On 17 September, the United Nations launched a revised plan to provide a framework for remaining emergency relief needs, but also to help up to 14 million people get back on their feet and recover from the floods. The total funding requirement stands at just over US$2 billion (£1.3 billion) over the next 12 months.

The revised UN plan was discussed at a high level UN meeting on 19 September in New York. At that meeting I announced an additional £70 million of funding to help meet remaining emergency relief needs and in particular to support the people of Pakistan to rebuild their lives. UK funding will help revive agriculture, provide temporary education facilities to get children back into school and help people rebuild their communities and provide short-term employment opportunities. This brings the UK's total contribution to £134 million, in addition to the £60 million raised through the generosity of the UK public through the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) appeal.

I would like to emphasise to the House the Government's commitment to ensuring transparency and value for money. Funding allocations will continue to be made on the basis of rigorous assessments of needs on the ground, and will be subject to thorough monitoring and evaluation. None of the resources pledged for relief will be channelled through the Government of Pakistan in line with standard humanitarian practice.

My Department has already begun to allocate the additional funding. In recognition of the ongoing emergency needs of flood-affected people in Southern Sindh, we are aiming to address the emergency health and water and sanitation needs of approximately 500,000 people through international and local NGOs at a cost of up to £8 million. I am also pleased to announce that we plan to help meet the immediate agriculture needs of approximately 850,000 vulnerable people in Punjab, Sindh and Balochistan and the critical winter rabi cropping window in late October-November, at a cost of some £7 million.

Our commitment to the people of Pakistan remains a long-term one. The UK will continue to play a leading role in encouraging others in the international community to step up to the mark. The UK was instrumental in securing a commitment at the European Council on 16 September to develop ambitious trade measures for Pakistan, including the immediate reduction of import duties and improved longer-term access to EU markets through generalised system of preferences (GSP+).

The floods require an exceptional response from the Government of Pakistan as well as from the international community. At the forthcoming Pakistan Development Forum the Government of Pakistan should set out plans for growth and economic reform as well as reconstruction. The credibility of these plans will determine how donors respond to future reconstruction and development needs.

Reform of CDC Group plc

The Secretary of State for International Development (Mr Andrew Mitchell): I wish to inform the House of the Government's decision to reconfigure CDC in order radically to increase its development impact.

CDC has the potential to be the jewel in the crown of the UK's support to the private sector in developing countries. In the past, when its expertise was more developmentally than financially focused, its record of achieving investment returns was at best uneven. Subsequently, the balance has tipped too far the other way. CDC now needs to reinvigorate its development DNA and marry this together with business know-how and financial discipline. It must strive towards both development and financial gains.

As a fund of funds, CDC has in some ways been a remarkable success. In terms of financial performance, we applaud the achievement of turning £1 billion into £2.5 billion since 2004. But CDC has become less directly engaged in serving the needs of development. Using public capital CDC pursued the narrowly defined private sector goals for which it was incentivised and this meant the greatest return for the least risk. This was not consistent with concentrating its efforts in the regions of greatest development need.

We will create a revitalised CDC with a great deal more clarity and ambition over what it does and where it works.

Specifically, I shall propose that CDC reduce new commitments to future third-party funds and consider the benefits of liquidating some of its existing investments where this can be done on attractive terms. We will not end commitments to new third-party funds since they can be the most appropriate way to mobilise funding in some countries and for some investment purposes. But the fund of funds model should make up no more than part of a new, broader and more actively managed portfolio.

CDC should regain its power to make investments directly in target countries. This could be done through co-investment with other sources of capital where, by doing so, CDC would make possible desirable investments which could not otherwise be made.

In addition to regaining greater investment control, CDC should be committed to participating through a wider range of vehicles, including investment in debt instruments and the provision of guarantees. Greater flexibility will enable it to build a more diversified portfolio in terms of risk, maturity and liquidity.

I should like CDC also to develop a more active approach to portfolio management. Its purpose is to invest in the poorest countries or sectors where capital is otherwise not available—to provide patient capital to finance and kick-start private investment in the most difficult regions.

CDC also needs more financial firepower. It needs to try to find liquidity for its investments so that capital can be recycled more quickly to new targets. We are also exploring how CDC could regain its power to borrow. This would give CDC the ability to move more quickly and more effectively.

CDC must continue to show that it is improving the way in which firms in the poorest countries operate, and that it monitors and demands improvements in the conditions under which people work. CDC must also continue to demand more effective treatment of environmental issues, more transparency and a rigorous approach to corruption.

These reforms will enable CDC to become a distinctive, innovative and differentiated development finance institution, with clearly measurable development impact and additionality, and new commitments targeted throughout sub-Saharan Africa and the poorer parts of Asia. I want CDC to be more pro-poor focused than any other development finance institution, doing the hardest things in the hardest places.

Identifying the sectors on which CDC should focus in future is a complex area. The correlation between investment and poverty reduction is not straight forward.

The Government want to listen to a wide range of views before taking any decisions. CDC and DFID will commission independent studies which will be made public on the DFID website and my Department is also launching a consultation, outline details of which will be available on Wednesday 13 October.

Regaining greater power over the investment of capital needs to be staged carefully, will take time, and will need resources of human capital additional to the dedicated people working for CDC at the moment. CDC must attract people of the highest calibre, who are passionate about pro-poor investment and whose expertise is rewarded by remuneration that is fair and appropriate, but not excessive. As part of the consultation, I will consider what that remuneration structure should be.

I shall make a further announcement early next year and CDC will reflect the necessary changes in the business plan which they will publish in the spring.

TRANSPORT

Eco-driving Training

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Mike Penning): The Department for Transport has today published its response to the consultation on options to increase the uptake of eco-driving training for drivers of large goods vehicles and passenger carrying vehicles.

Consistent with the Government's deregulation agenda I have decided not to make eco-driving training a mandatory part of the driver certificate of professional competence at this time.

I will instead respond to industry assurances that they have the will to increase uptake of eco-driving training without direct Government intervention, and will encourage and support industry-led initiatives to improve fuel efficiency and tackle carbon emissions, of which a number have emerged as a result of this consultation.

In 2012 the Department will review the level of uptake of eco-driving training and fuel savings resulting both from these industry-led initiatives and from voluntary uptake as part of the driver CPC and will reconsider the case for Government intervention.

I have placed copies of the consultation response document and associated impact assessment in the Libraries of both Houses.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Right to Control Regulations

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Maria Miller): On 25 February 2010 the Right to Control trailblazer sites were announced and a national consultation on the Right to Control draft regulations, "Making choice and control a reality for disabled people: consultation on the Right to Control trailblazer regulations", was published.

We have worked closely with disabled people and their organisations to develop the Right to Control, and continue to do so. Our advisory group, chaired by Baroness Jane Campbell, has co-produced both the policy and the draft regulations.

The consultation period finished on 26 May 2010, with 34 responses received in total from trailblazer sites, disability organisations and individual disabled people. The responses received have helped us ensure that our trailblazers are supported by the most appropriate regulations possible. Today, with the publication of our Government response to coincide with the laying of our draft regulations in Parliament, we are getting closer to achieving our aim of providing disabled people with the choice and control they have told us they want.

We are phasing the introduction of the Right to Control in trailblazer areas to ensure the best possible service will be provided to disabled people. The majority of the sites will start to offer the Right to Control from 13 December, with two of the more complex trailblazers, the Sheffield city council and Barnsley metropolitan borough council joint trailblazer, and the Greater Manchester consortium, commencing on 1 March and 1 April 2011 respectively.

Since the initial announcement of the sites piloting the Right to Control, Redcar and Cleveland borough council has withdrawn from being a trailblazer site. There have recently been significant management changes within the council and they now feel the need to dedicate existing available resources to other priority areas within adult services.

The Government response to the Right to Control regulations consultation "Making choice and control a reality for disabled people: Government response to consultation on the Right to Control trailblazer regulations" can be viewed and downloaded from the Office of Disability Issues website at: www.odi.gov.uk/right-to-control. Copies of the document will also be placed in the House Libraries.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 13 October 2010

TREASURY

ECOFIN (30 September - 1 October 2010)

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr Mark Hoban): The informal Economic and Financial Affairs Council (ECOFIN) was held in Brussels on 30 September to 1 October 2010. Many of the items discussed at this meeting followed on from issues covered at the 7 September ECOFIN, details of which are below.

The Informal ECOFIN began with a Ministers' lunch discussion focusing on IMF reform. Ministers then held an initial discussion following a Commission presentation on its economic governance proposals. The informal Council also discussed the Europe 2020 strategy for jobs and growth, focusing on means of making progress on structural reforms.

During the afternoon session, Ministers were joined by Central Bank Governors. Discussions centred on the economic outlook, IMF reform and G20, and the outlook and risks for the financial markets. The importance of fiscal consolidation was reaffirmed.

On the second day, discussions focused on credit rating agencies; financial reform in the EU and US; and a framework for responsible and growth-enhancing behaviour of the financial sector, looking at Basel III and financial levies and taxes.

ECOFIN: 7 September 2010

The Economic and Financial Affairs Council was held in Brussels on 7 September 2010. The Chancellor of the Exchequer represented the UK. The following items were discussed:

Financial supervision

Following trilogues, Ministers agreed the financial supervision package. The new proposals will see:

a European Banking Authority established in London:

nine day-to-day supervision of financial institutions remaining at the national level, except for credit rating agencies which, as agreed in December 2009, will be supervised by the new markets authority;

a guarantee that decisions by the new authorities in crisis times and when settling disputes between supervisors cannot impinge on the budgetary responsibilities of national Governments;

a European systemic risk board established to monitor and advise on systemic risk.

The Government are content with the final agreement, which fully reflects the priorities secured by the UK in July.

European semester

Ministers endorsed the EU semester. The Government are content with the agreement, which recognises that the UK's budget will be sent to the EU after it has been presented to Parliament.

Bank levy

The Council exchanged views on bank levies. The Government are a strong advocate of the use of levies as a complement to wider reforms aimed at reducing the probability and impact of banking failures. However, national Governments should decide how proceeds from any bank levy are deployed.

Tax on financial transactions

Ministers held an exchange of views on the possible use of financial transaction taxes. The Government believe that if these are to be properly considered, further discussion would be needed around whether the financial transaction taxes model offers a stable and efficient mechanism. The Council agreed to further discuss the financial transaction tax and bank levies at the informal ECOFIN, before returning as a formal agenda item in October.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Further Education Estate (Further Investment)

The Minister for Further Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning (Mr John Hayes): On 8 September 2010, I informed the House that the Skills Funding Agency had written to 149 colleges notifying them that they will each receive a renewal grant of up to £225,000. There are also 21 who will receive an enhanced renewal grant taking their total grant up to £1 million. This will help enable colleges to modernise their facilities, giving them a much needed boost at a critical time.

On 8 September I also notified the House that the Skills Funding Agency was still working with a further five colleges to resolve affordability issues so that they can also benefit from the capital investment. I am pleased today to inform the House that these five colleges will all receive a £225,000 renewal grant.

One hundred and fifty-four colleges will now receive over £50 million in capital support this financial year, making a real difference to learners and communities.

The full list of the successful colleges are available on the following website:

http://skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk/news/pressreleases/

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local Government Accountability

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr Eric Pickles): The coalition programme sets out this Government's commitment to ending the era of top-down Government and giving new powers to local authorities to work for their communities, accountable to local people rather than central Government. In support of this approach, today I am announcing changes to local area agreements (LAA) reward grant and the national indicator set. These changes, alongside our previous decision to end the comprehensive area assessment, mark the end of the old, top-down local performance framework. I am also announcing a less burdensome approach to the way local authorities provide data to central Government.

From today, the Government are putting local areas fully in control of their local area agreements. This enables local authorities and their partners to amend or drop any of the current 4,700 LAA targets without needing ministerial agreement. Where they choose to keep the targets, central Government will have no role in monitoring them. I will also not be requiring local authorities to prepare an LAA from April 2011, once the current agreements expire.

I will not be making any payments for performance reward grant for the current LAA targets. Deficit reduction and ensuring economic recovery are the most pressing issues facing Britain today, and of course local government has to take its share of the cuts. My aim is to give local authorities the flexibility they need to protect key services, by removing ring-fences around their money, scrapping comprehensive area assessments (CAA) and getting rid of unnecessary top-down targets and their related bureaucracy.

I am also announcing today the replacement of the national indicator set with a single, comprehensive list of all the data we expect local government to provide to central Government. While in the past, local authorities were required to report against a headline figure of around 200 national indicators, we know that in reality the number of reporting requirements was far higher. My aim is to make the data requirements we place on local government transparent and to review and reduce this for April 2011. I will involve local government in this review, to help us ensure the list contains only the minimum of central Government data needs. We will also keep the sector informed over the coming weeks about when individual data collections can cease, as we make the transition to the single list. We will also work with the sector to develop a process to review the list on an annual basis. Once the list is in place, my commitment to local government will be that if a data requirement is not on the list they will be under no obligation to collect and provide it.

In future, the emphasis needs to be on local authorities being democratically accountable to local people rather than to central bureaucratic systems. That is why I am encouraging local authorities wherever possible to make their performance data accessible to their citizens.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Parliamentary Written Answer (Correction)

The Minister of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change (Gregory Barker): I would like to inform the House that a written answer I gave on 6 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 139W to my hon. Friend the Member for West Suffolk (Matthew Hancock) contained some inadvertent and minor errors in that VAT had not been applied consistently, the effect of which was to overstate the cost of the chairs. In fact several of the most expensive chairs were purchased for slightly less than the previous answer indicated. The hon. Member's question tabled on 27 July 2010 asked how many chairs the Department of Energy and Climate Change had purchased since its creation; how much the Department spent in each such year; and what the five most expensive chairs purchased in each such year were.

In my written answer, I provided details of the Department's expenditure on chairs for financial years 2009-10 and 2010-11. An error was made whereby VAT was included in the costs of a small number of chairs although the text of my answer suggested all costs excluded VAT. As a result the total cost of chairs bought by the Department was also incorrect .

The correct information is as follows:

DECC was formed in October 2008 and London-based staff moved into the Department's headquarters, 3-8 Whitehall Place, London, SW1A 2AW, between March and June 2009.

In financial year 2009-2010 1,093 chairs were purchased by DECC.

The total cost for the above chairs was £261,000 excluding VAT.

The five most expensive chairs purchased were special chairs for staff required under health and safety advice. The cost of these were as follows: £811.10, £777.64, £773.85, £755.09 and £729.55 excluding VAT.

From April 2010 to date 25 chairs were purchased by DECC.

The total cost to date is £7,700 excluding VAT.

The five most expensive chairs purchased to date were special chairs for staff required under health and safety advice. The cost of these were as follows: £744.65, £722.15, £689.70, £682.75 and £633.75 excluding VAT.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Environment Council (14 October)

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mrs Caroline Spelman): My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change and I will represent the UK at the Environment Council in Luxembourg on 14 October.

The Council will hold an exchange of views on the proposal for a regulation modifying the directive concerning the possibility for member states to restrict or prohibit the cultivation of GMOs on their territory. The Belgian presidency will seek the adoption of Council conclusions on: the 10th meeting of the Conference of Parties to the convention on biological diversity; and on the preparation of the 16th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN convention on climate change and the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto protocol. The presidency will also seek the adoption of procedural Council conclusions on an analysis of possible options to go beyond the objective of a 20% reduction in greenhouse gases and evaluation of the risk of carbon leakage.

The following topics will be covered under "any other business":

> Presentation by the Commission concerning state aids to the coal industry;

Presentation by the Commission on the results of the technical committee work on a draft regulation concerning the "end of waste criteria";

Presentation by the Commission on Stakeholder Consultation on:

Report and possible proposal of a methodology to apply to emissions from carbon stock changes caused by indirect land use changes;

Communication on a road map for a low-carbon economy by 2050, also with a view to determining the necessary scenarios for 2030;

Communication on mainstreaming climate adaptation and mitigation in EU policies and climate-proofing of EU financial instruments;

Information from the Commission on progress towards achieving the Kyoto objectives concerning a mechanism for monitoring Community greenhouse gas emissions for implementing the Kyoto protocol;

Information from the Commission on Aviation and Climate Change—Developments at the ICAO Assembly;

Information from the Commission on the implementation of the Commission decision on the use of 300 million allowances from the new entrants' reserve of the emissions trading scheme for the demonstration of carbon capture and storage and innovative renewable energy technologies;

Information from the Czech delegation on the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the protection of European bats; and

Information from the presidency on the main environmental events organised by the Belgian presidency;

Presentation from the Swedish delegation on a review of the Community strategy on mercury—possible future action;

Presentation from the Finnish delegation on International environmental governance: preparation of the second meeting of the advisory group of Ministers;

Presentation from the Dutch delegation concerning a seminar on the financial perspectives and the environmental aspects of the EU budget.

HEALTH

Synathon BV *v.* Licensing Authority of the Department of Health

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Mr Simon Burns): In 2001 and 2002, the Medicines Control Agency (a forerunner to the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency) refused to accept certain marketing authorisation applications from Synthon. Synthon challenged the decision by way of judicial review.

In 2008 the European Court of Justice issued a judgment in relation to C-452/06 Synthon *v.* Licensing Authority of the Department of Health following a decision grant by the then Licensing Authority (the Medicines Control Agency) to refuse to grant a marketing authorisation for Synthon's paroxetine mesylate product.

The Court's judgment was that the United Kingdom should pay compensation for Synthon's consequential lost profits.

Following a mediation held on 23 and 24 September 2010 the Department of Health has agreed to pay Synthon €33.25 million inclusive of legal costs in full and final settlement of their claim.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 14 October 2010

TREASURY

Restricting Pensions Tax Relief

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr Mark Hoban): The Government provide generous tax relief to save for a pension, to encourage individuals to take responsibility for retirement planning and to recognise that pensions are less flexible than other forms of saving. The cost of tax relief net of income tax paid on pensions paid doubled under the last Government to around £19 billion per annum by 2008-09.

To ensure that pensions tax relief remains fair and affordable, the Government confirmed in the June Budget that they would proceed with the previous Government's goal to reduce the cost of pensions tax relief by about £4 billion per annum. It was clear, however, that the previous Government's approach to achieving this introduced significant complexity into the tax system, undermined pension saving and damaged UK businesses and competitiveness.

We announced in the June Budget that we would seek an alternative approach that limited the amount of tax relief that those who make the highest pension contribution receive, while ensuring generous incentives and flexibility for the vast majority of pension savers. We believed that such a system would be fairer, preserve incentives to save and would lessen the impact on the ability of UK businesses to attract and retain talent. This view has been confirmed by the response to the informal consultation we held over the summer.

So today, the Government are announcing that, from April 2011, the annual allowance (AA) for tax-privileged pension saving will be reduced from £255,000 to £50,000 and that from April 2012 the lifetime allowance (LTA) will be reduced from £1.8 million to £1.5 million. These changes will generate around £4 billion annual revenue in the steady state, protecting public finances.

Because we want a system that balances the needs of those in defined benefit (DB) and defined contribution (DC) schemes, the reduced AA applies to both types of schemes. Further, the deemed contributions to DB schemes will be calculated via a simple "flat factor" method. Reflecting the Government Actuary's advice, the level of the factor will be set at 16. Again, this achieves a fair balance between DB and DC schemes. The Government Actuary's report is publicly available on the HM Treasury website from today.

More detail on the policy specification and impacts can be found in a summary of responses to the July discussion document, and draft clauses for the AA regime (including transitional arrangements), also available on the website from today.

The Government anticipate that most individuals and employers will look to adapt their pension saving behaviour and remuneration terms to ensure that their pension contributions remain below the AA. However, we recognise that for traditional DB schemes this will be more difficult because changes in circumstances can lead to one-off spikes in pension accruals. We have sought to mitigate the impact of this through a more generous AA than we originally proposed. Further, where the pension tax charge exceeds the AA, we have proposed that unused allowance from up to the three previous years will be carried forward to offset against the excess contribution. In the interests of fairness, this will be available for DB and DC schemes. This will provide protection for the vast majority of people on moderate incomes. In the exceptional cases where this mitigation is not sufficient, we will introduce further measures to ensure that individuals will not have to pay large charges from their current income. We will consult on options to give individuals and schemes more flexibility over the payment of these charges in November 2010.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Additional Freedom (Further Education Colleges)

The Minister for Further Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning (Mr John Hayes): On Wednesday 13 October, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) announced that it has now chosen to reclassify general further education colleges as part of central Government.

This decision results from powers provided in the Further and Higher Education Act 1992. General further education colleges had previously been classified as part of the private sector.

This decision will have implications for the way that colleges are treated for national accounts purposes and therefore may impact on the collection and monitoring of financial information from institutions. However, we do not expect it will have any direct impact on colleges for the remainder of the financial year.

I have already written to the governing bodies of further education colleges reiterating the Government's commitment to reduce unnecessary administrative burdens on colleges, thereby giving them the freedom to make their own judgments and decisions about how they work with partners, and how best to manage their internal affairs for the benefit of learners, employers and wider communities.

As part of this work the Department for Business Innovation and Skills is exploring options to bring forward legislation that will seek to repeal the requirement on further education colleges to secure the consent of the chief executive of Skills Funding before borrowing money. The Department will also review all the conditions in the financial memorandum between colleges and the Skills Funding Agency as part of the wider assessment of freedoms.

I will continue to keep the House informed as our plans are further developed and refined.

CABINET OFFICE

Public Bodies Reform

The Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General (Mr Francis Maude): The coalition Government are committed to review public bodies, with the aim of increasing accountability for actions carried out on behalf of the state. Today I am placing in the Library of the House my proposals for the reform of public bodies, which summarises previous announcements and adds further proposals. Copies will also be available in the Vote Office. In addition, I will make an oral statement to the House today.

The landscape for public bodies needs radical reform to increase transparency and accountability, to cut out duplication of activity, and to discontinue activities which are simply no longer needed.

This public expect Ministers to take responsibility for what the Government do, and not leave this to people or bodies that are unelected. In the past, too many public bodies have been established without proper thought, and allowed to remain when their mission has long been accomplished. This has meant that elected politicians have been able to avoid making difficult and tough decisions. This is a direct challenge to accountability and is contrary to openness and transparency in public services that this Government seek to achieve.

So the Government's presumption is that state activity, if needed at all, should be undertaken by bodies that are democratically accountable at either national or local level. A body should only exist as a quango if it meets one of three tests, to which my review has subjected all existing public bodies. These tests are:

Does it perform a technical function?

Do its activities require political impartiality?

Does it need to act independently to establish facts?

This is a work in progress. A number of changes have already been announced. A number of bodies remain under consideration, with reviews still under way. All remaining public bodies will be subject to a rigorous triennial review to ensure that the previous pattern of public bodies often outliving the purpose for which they were established is not repeated.

All the changes proposed here will be delivered within Departments' spending review settlements. Those bodies whose status is being retained may be subject to further reforms following the spending review, in the same way as all other parts of the public sector.

My review process has covered 679 HM Government's non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs), as well as 222 other statutory bodies such as some non-ministerial Departments and some public corporations. Substantial reforms are proposed for over half of these bodies 481. The Government propose that 192 will cease to be public bodies. Where it is clear that a public body has accomplished its mission and no longer needs to exist, it will be abolished. This will be through moving it within a Government Department, where a Minister will be accountable for its activities, into local government, or into the charity or private sectors, or ceasing their work altogether. Some 118 would be merged down into 57 bodies, removing wasteful and complicating duplication of effort. Some 171 are proposed for substantial reform while retaining their current status.

Many public bodies will be retained and will remain at arm's length from Government. They will be expected to become more open, accountable and efficient. Non-departmental bodies which are being retained will be subject to a new framework and triennial review process, on which I will bring forward proposals in the new year.

I want to acknowledge the dedication and hard work of those who work in public bodies. We are committed to working with chairs and chief executives of these bodies to ensure that change is conducted as fairly and smoothly as possible.

To enable these proposed changes, the Government will shortly introduce a Public Bodies Bill, which will give Ministers power to make changes to named statutory bodies. Other forthcoming legislation, such as the Education Bill and the Localism Bill will also be used to make changes directly.

I believe that these reforms will increase accountability in public life, while making savings and driving out inefficiency and waste.

"Building a Stronger Civil Society"

The Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office (Mr Nick Hurd): I am today publishing a strategy for voluntary and community groups, charities and social enterprises. The document sets out the scale and nature of the opportunities being made available to civil society organisations as part of the Government's wider reform agenda, and spells out some of the practical measures that the Government are taking to support this vital sector.

I am also today publishing a Cabinet Office consultation document, asking for views on how infrastructure support for frontline civil society organisations can be improved.

I have placed copies of both documents in the Libraries of both Houses. The documents are also available on the Cabinet Office website at: www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Training

The Secretary of State for Defence (Dr Liam Fox): Over the past few months, the UK and our coalition partners in Afghanistan have carried out a rebalancing of forces within the area of operations covered by Regional Command (South West). In a counter-insurgency campaign, the people are the prize. It is hugely important that we strike the right balance between the numbers of the civilian population and the size of the security forces available to protect them. Over the summer, the UK has transferred security responsibility for Kajaki, Musa Qala and Sangin to our US allies in order to concentrate British forces in the key terrain of central Helmand where they are making steady progress in countering the threat from insurgents and nurturing the conditions necessary for secure and stable development in the region.

As a result of this rebalancing of our forces, we plan to increase by a total of over 320 the number of troops directly involved in the institutional training and development of the Afghan national security forces. This is in line with the coalition's intent to increase the number of troops directly involved in enhancing the capability of Afghan forces so that the Afghans, in time, can take the lead for security in their country. Of these additional troops, around 170 will be formally accredited on the NATO combined joint statement of requirement, as agreed at the recent NATO force generation conference, while some 150 will take on additional roles that we have identified as a priority in central Helmand. A significant proportion of these troops will be involved in training the Afghan national police.

The uplift in the number of those involved in institutional training and development will not result in a change to the UK's established and enduring conventional force level of 9,500 personnel.

HEALTH

Learning Disabilities and Mental Health Services

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Paul Burstow): I am today laying before Parliament the 14th report prepared pursuant to section 11 of the Disabled Persons (Services, Consultation and Representation) Act 1986 as amended by the Health and Social Care Act 2001. The report sets out the main developments in mental health and learning disabilities services that have taken place since the 13th report in 2003. It also provides the statistical data required under section 11(1)(b) of the Act.

A report under section 11 has not been published since 2003. We have published information about service and policy developments, but this information has not been laid before Parliament. The Department apologises unreservedly to Parliament for this oversight by the previous Government.

"Development of services for people with learning disabilities or mental illness in England—14th report" is in the Library and copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office.

Generic Medicines

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Mr Simon Burns): I am today publishing the Government's response to the consultation on the proposals to implement generic substitution of medicines in primary care. Alongside it a report of the analysis of responses is also published.

The pharmaceutical price regulation scheme 2009 committed to the introduction of generic substitution in primary care in the national health service, subject to discussion with affected parties. Further to discussions with, and views expressed by, stakeholders during 2009, the Department undertook a public consultation on proposals to implement generic substitution in primary care between 5 January and 30 March 2010, consulting on three options, including non-implementation.

In total, 423 organisations and individuals submitted written responses. In addition, 107 delegates attended Department of Health listening events, and their comments were recorded as part of the consultation.

Greenstreet Berman, an independent social research company, was appointed to analyse the responses on behalf of the Department following a competitive tender process run by the Central Office of Information.

The analysis of responses showed no clear consensus with regards to a preferred option going forward. Three key points were apparent:

> there was a strongly held perception by respondents that generic substitution posed a threat to patient safety. If the proposals were to be implemented, these concerns would arise in the front-line delivery of NHS services, impacting on the work load of health care professionals;
>
> the position on the cost-effectiveness of generic substitution implementation is inconclusive. There is a strong sense that the effort involved in implementing a formal generic substitution scheme was simply too great for the potential gain; and
>
> other, less nationally prescriptive mechanisms for further supporting the use of generic medicines can be explored.

The coalition Government intend to stand by the 2009 PPRS agreement, which expires at the end of 2013. However, in the light of the public consultation findings, the Department will not be progressing any further the implementation of generic substitution. Instead, the Department will be looking at further ways to support the use of generic medicines in a way that is acceptable to patients, recognising that there are still some savings that can potentially be delivered in this area.

Further details can be found at: http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Responsestoconsultations/DH_120431

Copies of both the Government response to the consultation and the analysis of responses report have been placed in the Library and copies are available for hon. Members from the Vote office.

Six Lives: The Provision of Public Services to People with Learning Disabilities

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Paul Burstow): I am pleased to announce that I have today published the Department of Health's progress report in response to the recommendations of the parliamentary and health service ombudsman and local government ombudsman in their March 2009 report "Six lives: the provision of public services to people with learning disabilities".

The report provides an assessment of progress made in health and social care services to fulfil the recommendations of "Six Lives" and improve health care and treatment for people with learning disabilities. This follows a series of reports that highlighted failures in adequately meeting the needs of this group of people. The report has been placed in the Library and copies are available to hon. Members in the Vote Office. The report is also available at:

> http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_120251

Contaminated Blood

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health (Anne Milton): On 16 April 2010 judgment was handed down on a judicial review of a decision made by the previous Government not to accept a recommendation made in the report of Lord Archer of Sandwell's independent inquiry into infections transmitted some decades ago through contaminated blood products. The recommendation in question, 6(h), which concerned payments to those affected by this tragedy, stated that:

> "We suggest that payments should be at least the equivalent of those payable under the scheme which applies at any time in [the Republic of] Ireland".

The judgment found against the Government, therefore I am now required to look again at this recommendation, and decide whether or not to accept it.

Having carefully compared the circumstances pertaining here and in the Republic of Ireland during the period when most of the infections occurred, and having taken account of the fact that this tragedy similarly affected many other countries; I do not consider there is a case for accepting Lord Archer's recommendation 6(h) that levels of payment here should match those made in Ireland. Every country must make its own decisions on financial support for those affected, taking account of its own particular circumstances, and affordability. The scheme in Ireland was set up on that basis, and has not been replicated in any other country, as far as we know. However, our ex-gratia payment schemes for HIV compare well with those of other countries.

In addition, it is estimated that implementing a similar scheme to Ireland's here in the UK, would cost in excess of £3 billion.

I recognise that this decision will disappoint those who are living with serious health problems as a result of their infections, as well as their families and the families of those who have already died. During the summer I met representatives of those affected, and heard first hand about the hardships that they have to face on a daily basis.

I believe that to a large extent the recommendations are already in place. The previous Government increased the level of payments to those affected with HIV to a minimum of £12,800 per annum, and has increased the discretionary funding available to their dependents. I do not intend to revisit that decision, but I am persuaded that there are some aspects of Lord Archer's recommendations that should be looked at afresh. These include:

> the level of ex-gratia payments made to those affected by hepatitis C, including financial support for their spouses and dependants, and taking account of the level of payments made to those infected with HIV in the UK and via schemes in other countries;
>
> the mechanisms by which all ex-gratia payments are made;
>
> access to insurance;
>
> prescription charges;
>
> access to nursing and other care services in the community.

I am initiating a review of the issues raised by these recommendations, which will take place in the context of the current financial climate and results of the spending review. Terms of reference have been placed in the Library. I expect to be able to report the outcome of this work and my intentions by the end of 2010. I will be speaking to the other UK Health Ministers to seek their confirmation whether they wish to participate in reviewing the UK-wide aspects within this timescale or whether I will proceed on an England only basis.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Justice and Home Affairs Post-Council Statement

The Minister for Immigration (Damian Green): The Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) Council was held on 7 and 8 October in Luxembourg. My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Justice and I attended on behalf of the United Kingdom. The following issues were discussed at the Council:

The first measure on the roadmap, the right to interpretation and translation in criminal proceedings, was adopted by the Council as an A point. The directive sets minimum standards as regards interpretation and translation in criminal proceedings throughout the European Union. The aim of the proposal is to ensure that, if suspects and defendants do not understand or speak the language used, they are entitled to interpretation from the time they are made aware that they are suspected or accused until the proceedings reach their conclusion, including any appeal. Suspected or accused persons will also be entitled to have some essential documents translated, so they can fully understand the case against them.

The interior session began with the Commission introducing two legal migration proposals: (i) a directive establishing the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals entering the EU through an intra-company transfer and (ii) a directive on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of seasonal employment. The directives were intended to respond to labour market needs, boost EU competitiveness and tackle illegal immigration. Neither directive created a right to admission. The presidency stated that negotiations would continue in working groups on both directives to find solutions to member states' concerns. The UK will decide whether to opt into the proposals by the 15 October.

Following this there was a political discussion on the Common European Asylum System (CEAS) where the presidency reminded member states that the 2012 deadline was approaching. The presidency was committed to moving forward on the Dublin and Eurodac regulations and long-term residents and qualification directives. The UK stated that it did not favour further legislation and preferred a focus on practical co-operation, and confirmed that it was committed to work at a practical level to spread best practice and ensure solidarity. The UK was already involved in capacity-building for asylum decision making in member states, and was prepared to do more. The UK highlighted that the time was right for the Commission to demonstrate strong leadership to co-ordinate these efforts, to ensure an effective delivery mechanism while undertaking more work with countries of origin. The Commission confirmed that the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) would be able to start work in January and that the work programme and the budget were being developed.

During the Interior Ministers lunch, Ministers discussed the recent travel advice issued by the United States. Jane Lute, Assistant Secretary for the Department of Homeland Security, attended. She stated that the recent advice on travel to Europe was issued in order for the US public to be more vigilant. She explained that in the US they increasingly shared information with the public and private sector.

Following Jane Lute's departure Ministers discussed EU threat alerts. There was a widespread view that member states would be responsible for their own assessments, but there was a broad view that member states should give pre-notification of changes to EU colleagues.

After lunch the Council in Mixed Committee with Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Switzerland (non-EU

Schengen states) received an update from the Commission that the EU visa information system (VIS) would not be ready in time for the planned go-live date of December 2010. Member states had agreed it would now be rolled out in June 2011. The delay had been caused by problems with the contractor and in member states' preparations. The UK does not participate in VIS as it builds on an area of the Schengen Acquis in which the UK does not participate.

Next there was a discussion on visa reciprocity in the context of the Canadian decision to reintroduce visas for Czech nationals. The Commission stated that further discussion should wait until after they issued a report on visa reciprocity, due by the end of the year.

The Commission presented a progress report and an updated comprehensive global schedule and budgetary estimate for the second generation of the Schengen Information System (SIS II), during which it reiterated some of the reasons for the delay including the change in specification by the Council. On the issue of increased national costs, the Commission stated that it was still consulting internally on the use of the external border fund.

After Mixed Committee the Council held an orientation debate on the negotiation of passenger name record (PNR) agreements with the US, Canada and Australia. The Commission explained that the PNR package aimed to establish a coherent framework for the exchange of data with third countries and proposed that negotiations with all three countries should start at the same time. The UK supported this approach and welcomed the Commission's recognition that PNR was a crucial tool in the fight against terrorism and organised crime and was looking forward to seeing the EU PNR directive appear in January 2011. The UK stated that it strongly believed that early publication of an instrument which covered intra-EU flights was vital to the safety and security of EU citizens. The Commission said it would propose the new EU PNR directive early next year.

The Commission presented its Communication on EU Counter-terrorism (CT) policy: main achievements and future challenges, which provided a summary of EU activity since the launch of the EU CT Strategy in 2005. One finding was that the threat from terrorism was still live. The EU had not had a major terrorist attack since 2005, not because no attempt had been made, but because those responsible for our security had done a very good job.

The Commission also presented its communication on information management and stated the purpose of the exercise was to provide overview of the various important information systems which existed, such as the terrorist finance tracking programme and the data retention directive.

During AOB, the Commission provided details of the Memorandum of Understanding signed with Libya and there was a discussion on the framework agreement with that country. The UK underlined the importance of consulting and involving member states in this kind of initiative.

The justice session began with a debate about the criminal law articles (articles 1-13, except article 10) in the draft directive on combating sexual abuse and exploitation of children and child pornography. This directive seeks to ensure that criminal activities to sexually exploit children, including misuse of the internet, are more fully covered than in the existing framework decision (2004). The UK maintained its parliamentary scrutiny reserve on the text but gave its general support for the proposal. The Commission noted that the European Parliament had not yet indicated its position, so it would defend its proposal but would engage constructively in negotiations. The presidency confirmed that negotiations on the remaining articles would continue with a view to agreeing a general approach on the entire text at the December JHA Council.

The Commission then gave a presentation on the draft directive on the right to information in criminal proceedings. This proposal is the second measure in the roadmap to strengthen procedural rights in criminal proceedings. It aims to set common minimum standards and improve the rights of suspects and accused persons by ensuring that they receive information about their rights. The UK supported the concept of a letter of rights and agreed that it was essential for suspects and defendants to be made aware of their rights. The UK has yet to confirm whether it will be opting into this draft directive.

Next, the presidency provided an update on progress in the European Parliament on the European Protection Order, a measure designed to protect victims moving from one member state to another. The European Parliament had an orientation vote in committee which indicated support for a broad scope covering civil as well as criminal measures. It would seek to make progress in the Council on this complex proposal.

The presidency then provided an information point on negotiations on the proposed regulation implementing enhanced co-operation in the field of law applicable to divorce—Rome III. The UK is not participating in this measure and noted the update.

During lunch, Ministers held an exchange of views about the judicial dimension of the fight against terrorism. The Commission stressed the importance of devoting sufficient funding to measures to combat terrorism.

Returns to Zimbabwe

The Minister for Immigration (Damian Green): I am announcing today our intention to end the current suspension of enforced returns of failed asylum seekers to Zimbabwe. There are some Zimbabweans who continue to have a well-founded fear of persecution; we continue to grant protection to those people. As with any other nationality, every case is considered on its individual merits and against the background of the latest available country information from a wide range of reliable sources including international organisations, non-governmental organisations and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

The courts have found that not all Zimbabweans are in need of international protection and given the improved situation on the ground in Zimbabwe since the formation of the inclusive Government in 2009, the time is now right to bring our policy on returns of failed Zimbabwean asylum seekers into line with that on every other country. This will mean that failed asylum seekers from Zimbabwe will from now on be treated in exactly the same way as failed asylum seekers of all other countries when it comes to enforcing returns.

Those found not to be in need of protection have always been expected to return home. We prefer these individuals to return voluntarily and many hundreds have done so. It is in everyone's interest for people to return to Zimbabwe and use their skills to support themselves and help rebuild the country. The Government support this process and are in active dialogue with Zimbabweans to explore how this process can be further assisted.

It remains open to Zimbabweans to return home voluntarily under one of the assisted voluntary return (AVR) programmes which are available for individuals of all nationalities. There are three programmes available under which all returnees receive support in acquiring travel documentation, flight costs to their country of origin and onward domestic transport, airport assistance at departure and arrival airports and, for those eligible, up to £1,500 worth of reintegration assistance per person including a £500 relocation grant on departure for immediate resettlement needs and, once home, a range of reintegration options which are delivered "in kind".

The Immigration and Asylum Chamber of the Unified Tribunal Service (IAC) will be hearing in the near future a further country guidance case on general safety of return to Zimbabwe which we expect to reflect the improvements in Zimbabwe since the previous country guidance case was decided in 2008. Therefore, although there is no reason why Zimbabweans who both we, and the courts, have found not to be in need of protection should not now be removed, we will not enforce the first returns until the IAC has delivered its determination. Those who have no right to remain in the UK, and who chose not to return voluntarily, will then face enforced return, in exactly the same way as failed asylum seekers of all other countries.

This change in asylum policy which I have announced today does not reflect any change in our categorical opposition to human rights abuses in Zimbabwe. We will continue to call, both bilaterally and with our international partners, for an end to all such abuses and the restoration of internationally accepted human rights standards in Zimbabwe.

Schengen Agreement (Correction to Written Answer)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (James Brokenshire): I regret to inform that House that there were inaccuracies in an answer to parliamentary questions 15306, 15307, 15308, 15309, 15310 and 15391 (linked) on 15 September 2010, *Official Report*, columns 1077-78W.

The response contained inaccurate statistics and referred to measures which are not the responsibility of the Home Office and which are therefore outside the scope of the question.

I can confirm that the answer should have read as follows:

> "The tables placed in the Libraries of both Houses set out measures for which the Home Secretary is responsible which have been presented to the Council pursuant to title IV of the treaty establishing the European Community ("TEC pre-Lisbon measures") and title V of the treaty on the functioning of the European Union ("TFEU post-Lisbon measures" from 1 December 2009) attracting the UK opt-in.
>
> They also set out measures presented following the entry into force of the Lisbon treaty pursuant to those elements of the Schengen acquis in which the UK participates (the police and criminal justice elements) and, pre-Lisbon those measures building on Schengen from which the UK was excluded.
>
> The Lisbon treaty introduced a right for the UK to opt out of Schengen building measures where we were automatically bound prior to its entry into force.
>
> There is one "mixed" measure currently under negotiation which includes provisions which build on those elements of the Schengen acquis to which we are bound: a Council regulation to establish an agency for the purposes of managing existing IT systems in the area of Justice and Home Affairs. The deadline by which the UK had to notify its decision to opt out of that measure was 21 June 2010; the UK made no such notification. The regulation also includes ex-title IV TEC (now title V TFEU) provisions to which the UK opted in on 23 September 2009.
>
> Following the entry into force of the Lisbon treaty, excluding the IT agency, there have been 14 measures for which the Home Office has responsibility to which the title V TFEU opt-in has applied. The UK has opted in to nine and out of three, and is considering a further two published proposals where the Government will take a decision within three months. There have been three measures to which the Schengen opt-out applied (excluding the IT agency). The UK is participating in all three.
>
> Additional information on the dates when all these measures were presented, when the UK signalled its acceptance at the Council, when they were adopted and entered into force are not held centrally and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost. However, all decisions to opt-in to or out of JHA measures are notified to Parliament at the time they are made. The first annual report will be presented to Parliament in December providing retrospective information on the UK's application of the opt-in protocol from 1 December 2009 to 1 December 2010, a year since the Lisbon treaty came into force".

Table 1 and table 2 referred to in the corrected answer will be placed in the House Libraries.

JUSTICE

Her Majesty's Courts Service

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Jonathan Djanogly): In March 2010 a list of key performance indicators was published for Her Majesty's Courts Service for 2010-11. One of these indicators was "to maintain the "very satisfied" element of the HMCS court user satisfaction survey at or above the 2007-08 baseline of 41%". The data to measure this indicator are usually captured using an independent survey of court users.

In April 2011 HMCS and the Tribunals Service will come together to form a new integrated agency. Commissioning new surveys for 2010-11 would not represent good value for money as the results would be of limited value and would not be available until after the creation of the new agency. I have, therefore, decided that the survey used to report against this performance indicator should not go ahead.

HMCS remains committed to providing good customer service to all court users across England and Wales. User satisfaction remains strong with 82% of court users satisfied overall, with 40% of those being "very satisfied". The new integrated courts and tribunals service will continue to deliver improvements in the services provided for courts and tribunal users.

Updating the Coroner System

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Jonathan Djanogly): I wish to make a statement to announce plans for changes to the coroner system in England and Wales.

We believe the proposals I am putting forward today will bring improvements to the system, and address current inconsistencies and inefficiencies in the delivery of services to bereaved families.

We need to create minimum national standards and issue improved guidance on important procedures such as the commissioning of post-mortem examinations, while supporting the local management and delivery of the service.

To that end, we plan to bring forward some of the measures from part 1 of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009.

Our aims are to:

Improve the coroner system so that inquests are timely and bereaved people are provided with sufficient information and support throughout the process.

Improve the effectiveness of inquests, so cases are conducted in the most appropriate district, information is better shared between coroners and other agencies and investigations are better informed by medical advice.

Support local service management and delivery to ensure coroners and their officers have the skills to carry out their jobs and best practice is shared between coroner districts and between the local authorities which fund them.

We will achieve this by:

Commencing provisions enabling operational problems facing coroners to be addressed.

Reviewing and updating the coroners rules.

Issuing and monitoring best practice guidance, including a national charter for bereaved families.

Maintaining and improving training for coroners and their officers.

Encouraging the further establishment of support services provided by the voluntary sector to those attending inquests.

We will make it simpler for coroners to transfer cases between each other, for the convenience of bereaved families and to reduce delays. We will also make it possible for post-mortem and related examinations to take place at the most appropriate specialist centre, by removing the geographical restrictions of the Coroners Act 1988.

We aim to commence these measures in line with the original deadline of April 2012. Some may be brought in earlier than that.

We will continue to work across Government to identify whether and how we can implement other measures in the 2009 Act. We will continue to work closely with Health Ministers to implement proposed new death certification measures so causes of death are recorded more accurately, public health measures are improved, and any improper practices by doctors are detected. In doing so, we will take account of the responses to the consultation paper "Reform of the Coroner System Next Stage: Preparing for Implementation". I have today published the Government's response to that paper, and have placed a copy in the Libraries of both Houses.

However, after careful consideration, we have decided that in the current economic climate we cannot go ahead with plans to implement national leadership from a Chief Coroner, an appeals system, or a medical adviser. We have proposed that the abolition of the office of the Chief Coroner should be included in the Public Bodies Bill, which was announced earlier today and we are further considering the transfer of some of the Chief Coroner's functions to suitable alternative bodies.

His Honour Judge Peter Thornton QC, a Senior Circuit Judge at the Central Criminal Court (Old Bailey), was appointed by the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Judge, to the post of Chief Coroner under section 35 and schedule 8 of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 after those provisions came into force on 1 February 2010 but had not yet taken up his duties. In the light of our intention to abolish the post he will now not do so but I wish to express my gratitude to Judge Thornton for his considerable patience, and advice to the Department, during the period of this policy review.

We will continue to work collaboratively with coroners, local government and police authorities to deliver service improvements. We will also explore with voluntary sector organisations how we can work together better, so as to provide further support for people when they suffer a sudden or unexpected bereavement.

We believe that our proposals will deliver an improved and more flexible service to bereaved families and also to coroners, their staff and others who work within or have an interest in the coronial system. I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to their dedication and hard work and to recognise the enormous value of the service they provide.

TRANSPORT

EU Transport Council - 15 October 2010

The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr Philip Hammond): The first Transport Council of the Belgian presidency will take place in Luxembourg on 15 October.

The Council will be asked to reach a political agreement on the directive amending Directive 1999/62 on charging of heavy goods vehicles (the Eurovignette directive). The directive governs the taxation of lorries, including rules for the charging of access to road infrastructure where member states choose to do this. The proposed amendments include the removal of references to mandatory hypothecation of revenues and proposals to allow charges to be set flexibly within the overall cap to reflect externalities in areas and at times when there is congestion. We strongly support the former and believe the latter represents an acceptable approach to dealing with congestion. The amendments will also include proposals to allow member states discretion not to include goods vehicles weighing less than 12 tonnes in charging schemes—reflecting the fact that few such vehicles are involved in international traffic—and some limitation of the Commission's powers to propose amendments to minimum and maximum rates using delegated acts. In particular the Commission's power to increase the minimum rates of lorry circulation taxes, such as goods vehicle VED, has been removed. We support both of these proposals

We remain concerned that this directive, which impacts on national charging regimes and hence on tax, rests on a transport legal base and will continue to press our position that these issues should be agreed by unanimity. We will also continue to press the case for increasing maximum daily rates for time-based charging.

There will be an exchange of views on strategy and the future of transport 2010-2020. This will give Ministers an opportunity to set out their position on issues expected to be covered in the European Commission's forthcoming White Paper on transport policy, prior to the more detailed analysis which will follow publication. I will reiterate the UK's commitment to climate change mitigation measures in transport and to better regulation across the board.

The Council will be asked to adopt a mandate authorising the Commission to open negotiations with Brazil on a comprehensive air transport agreement. The Government support the opening of negotiations on such an agreement.

Under AOB the Commission will present their recent legislative proposal to recast the first rail package. There will be no substantive discussion.

Among items for adoption without debate ("A points") the Council is expected to adopt conclusions on applications of the European global navigation satellite systems.

WORK AND PENSIONS

The Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council

The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Chris Grayling): The Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council will be held on 21 October 2010 in Luxembourg. Andy Lebrecht, UK deputy permanent representative to the EU, will represent the United Kingdom.

The main item on the agenda will be Europe 2020, including two separate discussions on the employment and social dimensions. On employment governance, Council will adopt conclusions and hold an orientation debate. The UK will stress that what the December Council finally endorses for assessment and monitoring must adhere to the relevant treaty basis. On social protection, Council will adopt the Social Protection Committee opinion and hold another orientation debate, in which the UK will stress the need to respect subsidiarity and focus on the outcomes of poverty reduction through exchange of experience, rather than the Commission monitoring the situation in member states.

The Commission will provide information on the employment aspects of its flagship initiative, Youth on the Move. The UK welcomes the focus on supporting young people's access to the job market through better education, training and mobility.

The Council will adopt the employment guidelines which were politically endorsed by the June European Council (JEC) before the European Parliament (EP) consultation required by the treaty ended. In response to the EP report, the presidency only proposed amendments to the recitals so the JEC agreement stands. Council will also adopt the Employment Committee opinion on active and positive transitions. The opinion is about making work pay and has focused on a life-cycle approach covering movement either from unemployment to employment or between jobs, giving more attention than previously to activation, skills and flexible working.

The Belgian presidency will provide information on the preparation for the Tripartite Social Summit, which will discuss how to encourage more jobs as we come out of the recession.

Under any other business, there will be information from the Commission on the Green Paper on pensions and the presidency will provide an update on the work being done at European level to promote the inclusion of the Roma. There will also be information on various conferences including the round table on poverty and the conference on child poverty and child wellbeing.

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 18 October 2010

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Intellectual Property Office

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Mr Edward Davey): My noble Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Baroness Wilcox) has today made the following statement:

Following the statement made on 29 March 2010, *Official Report, House of Lords*, col. 172-173 WS, I would like to advise the House of certain changes to the targets set for the Intellectual Property Office for 2010-11. The revised targets are as follows:

1. Be able by March 2011 to quantify the level of IP rights and estimate IP's impact on the knowledge economy.
2. Develop proposals on how the UK's industrial property and copyright framework can further promote entrepreneurialism economic growth and social and commercial innovation.
3. EU free trade agreements (FTAs) negotiated and agreed with IP provisions in line with UK priorities.
4. Issue 80% of patent search reports within four months of request.
5. Give good customer service in processing patent applications in 95% of quality assured cases.
6. Clear all outstanding patent examinations older than 49 months by March 2011.
7. Register applications for trade marks, for which we have not raised any issues and no opposition has been filed, within four months in 85% of cases, within five months in 90% of cases and within six months in 95% of cases.
8. Make the correct decision on registration on at least 99% of trade mark applications.
9. Register 95% of design applications for which we have not raised any issues within one month.
10. Our business outreach enables 80% of its recipients to improve the IP performance of their business or the businesses they advise.
11. Achieve a return on capital employed of 4%.
12. Achieve the savings target set by BIS of £6.3 million for 2010-11.
13. 90% of IPO customers will be satisfied with the service they receive.
14. Demonstrable improvement in our people's perceptions of leadership and change management capability at all levels of the IPO compared with 2009.

These targets reflect the purpose of the Intellectual Property Office, which is to promote innovation by providing a clear, accessible and widely understood IP framework, to enable creators, users and consumers to benefit from knowledge and ideas.

CABINET OFFICE

"Common Sense, Common Safety"

The Minister of State, Cabinet Office (Mr Oliver Letwin): In June this year the Prime Minister appointed Lord Young of Graffham to undertake a review into the rise of the compensation culture over the last decade coupled with the current low standing that health and safety legislation now suffers and to suggest solutions.

His intention in doing this was to bring about a return to proportionality and common sense in the application of both health and safety rules and to the payment of compensation for those victims of genuine accidents.

With the publication of Lord Young's report "Common Sense, Common Safety" on Friday 15 October 2010 we are a step closer to achieving this. His proposals include measures to curtail the promotional activities of claims management companies and the compensation culture they perpetuate; clearer guidance for small businesses, schools and the police and fire services—freeing them from unnecessary bureaucracy and the fear of litigation; greater professionalism and transparency for those working in and with the health and safety industry; and a system where those wanting to hold events in their local communities are not hamstrung by red tape and over-prescriptive application of regulations.

The Government fully support this report and Lord Young will remain as the Prime Minister's adviser. He will work with Departments, the devolved Administrations, and all those with an interest in seeing his recommendations put into effect.

Lord Young's review "Common Sense, Common Safety" can be downloaded from the No.10 website, www.number10.gov.uk. Copies of the document have also been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Energy Policy

The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (Chris Huhne):

National Policy Statements

On 15 July, *Official Report*, col. 40WS my hon. Friend the Minister of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change, the hon. Member for Wealden (Charles Hendry) told the House that the Government would hold a further consultation in the autumn on the draft energy national policy statements (NPSs).

I am today announcing this further consultation. It follows a consultation undertaken by the previous Administration which closed earlier this year. We have decided on this further consultation in particular because of changes which have been made to the appraisals of sustainability for the non-nuclear energy national policy statements following the previous consultation.

As my right hon. Friend the Minister with responsibility for decentralisation told the House on 29 June, *Official Report*, col. 34-35WS, in announcing changes to the planning system, national policy statements are critically important documents and should have the strongest possible democratic legitimacy. They should be subject to public consultation and both scrutinised and ratified by Parliament before designation. I am today laying the revised draft NPSs before Parliament for any further scrutiny that Parliament may decide to undertake, and I am taking this opportunity to specify that the relevant period for that scrutiny under section 9(6) of the Planning Act 2008 will end on 31 January 2011. The public consultation will run until 24 January 2011, and we intend to present the finalised statements to Parliament for ratification next spring.

Energy national policy statements will be critical to delivering secure low-carbon energy supplies through the role they will play in the planning system. Decisions on new nationally significant infrastructure projects, whether by the Infrastructure Planning Commission or, in due course, by Ministers (subject to the passage of the Decentralisation and Localism Bill), will be taken in accordance with the framework of policies set out in the NPS.

At least one quarter of the UK's electricity generating capacity needs to be replaced by 2020 and it will be important we create the right environment for business to invest in the energy market. The revised statements will give investors the certainty they need to bring forward proposals to maintain security of supply and ensure progress towards decarbonisation.

The energy NPSs set out national policy on a number of key energy policy areas: fossil fuels; renewables; gas supply and gas and oil pipelines; electricity networks; and nuclear. Each of these forms a separate NPS, sitting below an overarching energy NPS.

Each of the NPSs is accompanied by an appraisal of sustainability (AOS), which incorporates environmental reports which have been prepared under European law, and by a habitats regulations assessment (HRA). We are also consulting again on these associated documents.

Earlier this year, Parliament scrutinised draft energy NPSs both here and in another place. I would like to thank the Energy and Climate Change Committee for its report, and those in another place who also undertook important scrutiny work on the earlier drafts. I am today publishing the Government's response to Parliament alongside the revised NPSs.

I am today also publishing a Government response to the previous consultation, to which there were over 3,000 responses, which identifies the key themes in the responses and responds to them.

Copies of all these documents have been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses and are available at http://www.energynpsconsultation.decc.gov.uk.

Regulatory Justification

I have today laid before the House draft statutory instruments containing my decisions, as Justifying Authority under the Justification of Practices Involving Ionising Radiation Regulations 2004, that the generation of electricity from the nuclear reactor designs known as the AP1000 and the EPR is justified.

Regulatory Justification is one of the actions which the Government are taking to facilitate the building of new nuclear power stations. It is required under EU legislation that provides that before any new practice involving ionising radiation (such as new designs of nuclear reactors) can be introduced, it must first undergo a high-level generic assessment to determine whether its economic, social or other benefits outweigh the health detriment it may cause.

As Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change I am the Justifying Authority and it is my responsibility to take these decisions.

Justification decisions are made by statutory instruments. The statutory instruments which I have today laid in draft before the House are supported by reasons documents, copies of which have been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses.

The reasons documents set out how I have considered responses to the public consultations carried out by my Department, how I have assessed the net benefit of the classes or types of practice against the radiological health detriment they may cause, and how I have come to the decisions that they are Justified.

In summary, the basis for my decisions, as set out in the draft statutory instruments, is that there is a clear need for the generation of electricity by the nuclear reactor designs to which the statutory instruments relate, because of the contribution they can make to increased security of energy supplies and reduced carbon emissions. Against this the radiological detriment to health from these nuclear reactor designs and their associated waste facilities will be low compared to overall levels of radiation, and effectively controlled by the UK's robust and effective regulators. I have therefore concluded that the reactor designs should be Justified.

The Justification Regulations provide that

> "the Justifying Authority may cause an inquiry or other hearing to be held if it appears to him expedient to do so in connection with the exercise of any of his functions under these Regulations".

Having considered all the evidence supplied in the course of the public consultations, I have concluded that interested parties have been provided with sufficient opportunity to make their views known; that I have been provided with sufficient information to balance the competing arguments, interests and evidence bases in the relevant areas; and that I have sufficient information before me to make a decision. The draft statutory instruments containing the decisions will also be subject to debates in both Houses of Parliament. I have therefore concluded that holding an inquiry or other hearing as part of the process would produce insufficient further information or other benefit to justify delaying the making of these decisions and that it is not expedient to do so.

Copies of a statement to this effect, and of the reasons documents, have been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses and are available on my Department's website at

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we_do/uk_supply/energy_mix/nuclear/new/reg_just/reg_just.aspx.

Financing of Nuclear Waste and Decommissioning

The Energy Act 2008 puts in place the framework to ensure that operators of new nuclear power stations meet in full their waste management, waste disposal and decommissioning costs.

Today I am laying in the House the Nuclear Decommissioning and Waste Handling (Designated Technical Matters) Order 2010. This order will give operators greater clarity over which liabilities require monies to be set aside in segregated funds.

The order will proceed under the affirmative procedure and, if passed, will be followed by the Decommissioning and Waste Handling (Finance and Fees) Regulations 2010.

The order and the regulations together complete the statutory framework for the financing of nuclear waste and decommissioning.

No Subsidy for New Nuclear Power

Alongside the other announcements being made today on steps the Government are taking to enable new nuclear power, I should like to take the opportunity to reconfirm the Government's policy that there will be no public subsidy for new nuclear power.

To be clear, this means that there will be no levy, direct payment or market support for electricity supplied or capacity provided by a private sector new nuclear operator, unless similar support is also made available more widely to other types of generation.

New nuclear power will, for example, benefit from any general measures that are in place or may be introduced as part of wider reform of the electricity market to encourage investment in low-carbon generation.

I would also like to make it clear that we are not ruling out action by the Government to take on financial risks or liabilities for which they are appropriately compensated or for which there are corresponding benefits.

Specifically, within the framework of the Government's policy under the Energy Act 2008, that new nuclear operators must have arrangements in place to meet the full costs of decommissioning and their full share of waste management costs, we will not rule out taking title to radioactive waste, including spent fuel, at a fixed price provided that price properly reflects any financial risks or liabilities assumed by the state.

In addition, the Government are committed to the Paris convention on nuclear third-party liability and the Brussels supplementary convention. These conventions establish an internationally agreed framework for compensating victims in the unlikely event of a nuclear accident. The UK is already a party to them—and currently caps operators' liability at £140 million. The UK is also bound, with other Brussels signatory states, to contribute to a fund that will compensate victims both in the UK and other convention countries should a serious nuclear incident happen.

The Government will consult later this year on our proposals to implement amendments to the conventions. These amendments impose a more stringent regime for operators than the current one, and alongside these improvements, the Government will be consulting on whether to continue to include an upper limit on operator liability, as permitted by the conventions. Accordingly, in line with the policy I am outlining, and without prejudice to the outcome of that consultation, the Government have not ruled out the maintenance of a limit on operator liability set at an appropriate level provided that it is justifiable in the public interest, is the right way of ensuring that risk is appropriately managed, and that, overall, any potential cost or risk to the Government can be justified by the corresponding benefits of the Paris/Brussels regime.

Arguably, few economic activities can be absolutely free of subsidy in some respect, given the wide-ranging scope of state activity and the need to abide by international treaty obligations. Our "no subsidy" policy will therefore need to be applied having regard to proportionality and materiality.

We will not rule out the Government providing support to industry in the normal course of the business of government, for example through the activities of the Office for Nuclear Development in taking forward the actions to facilitate the deployment of new nuclear power in a similar manner to the facilitation of other energy types. The Government will continue to meet their international obligations and support wider activity in the nuclear sector, including support for research and development, supply chain and skills activity.

The Government will also continue to provide funding to the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority to ensure the efficient and effective clean-up of the UK's civil, public sector legacy nuclear facilities.

Severn Tidal Power Feasibility Study

I am also today publishing the conclusions of the Severn tidal power feasibility study and the key documents which informed its conclusions.

Following a positive recommendation from the Sustainable Development Commission in October 2007, a two-year cross-Government feasibility study was launched to inform a decision whether or not to promote a tidal power scheme in the Severn estuary. The cross-Government feasibility study, led by my Department, also included representatives from the Welsh Assembly Government and the South West of England Regional Development Agency.

The Severn's enormous tidal range could provide up to 5% of our current electricity generation from an indigenous renewable source, and bring new employment opportunity both locally and nationally. But costs would be high, and a scheme would have to have a strategic need compared to other ways of meeting our need for renewable energy. Furthermore, the Severn estuary and some of its tributaries are designated as internationally important nature conservation sites. The study has considered whether Government could support a tidal power project in the Severn estuary and, if so, on what terms.

It has looked at five potentially viable scheme options in outline and assessed their costs, benefits and risks. The evidence base which I am publishing with the findings of the study is extensive and includes a strategic environmental assessment of the Severn tidal power options short-listed following last year's consultation.

The key conclusion of the feasibility study is that the Government do not see a strategic case at this time for public funding of a tidal scheme to generate energy in the Severn estuary. The costs and risks for the taxpayer and energy consumer would be excessive compared to other low-carbon energy options. Furthermore, uncertainties over compliance with regulation would add to the cost and risk of construction. The Government believe that other options, such as the expansion of wind energy, carbon capture and storage and nuclear power, represent a better deal for taxpayers and consumers at this time.

However, the Government recognise that factors which will determine the feasibility of Severn tidal power could change over time. The feasibility study evidence therefore includes potential triggers for a future review, so that it can be considered by the Committee on Climate Change in the work they will be doing on the level of renewables ambition required to meet the 2050 greenhouse gas reduction target. The committee is expected to report next year. The Government do not intend to review Severn tidal power before 2015.

HEALTH

NHS White Paper

The Secretary of State for Health (Mr Andrew Lansley): Today I am publishing two further consultation documents seeking views on proposals set out in the White Paper, "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS" (Cm 7881).

We are consulting on proposals for an information revolution and to give patients greater choice and control. The vision set out in the White Paper is of an NHS and social care system that puts patients and the public first and is more responsive to their needs and wishes—an NHS where patients, service users, carers and families have far more influence and choice in the system and where they have the information they need. "Liberating the NHS: Greater choice and control—A consultation on proposals" and "Liberating the NHS: An Information Revolution—A consultation on proposals" have been placed in the Library and copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office. The documents are also available electronically at www.dh.gov.uk/liberatingtheNHS.

"Liberating the NHS: Greater choice and control—A consultation on proposals" further develops the choice commitments set out in the White Paper to:

increase the current offer of choice of any provider significantly;

create a presumption that all patients will have choice and control over their care and treatment and that all patients will have a choice of any willing provider wherever relevant;

introduce choice of named consultant-led team for elective care by April 2011 where clinically appropriate;

extend maternity choice;

begin to introduce choice of treatment and provider in some mental health services from April 2011;

begin to introduce choice for diagnostic testing from 2011;

begin to introduce choice post-diagnosis from 2011;

introduce choice in care for long-term conditions as part of personalised planning;

move towards a national choice offer to support people's preferences about end-of-life care; and

consult on choice of treatment.

The proposals envisage choice of treatment and health care provider becoming the reality in the vast majority of NHS-funded services by no later than 2013-14.

The second consultation "Liberating the NHS: An Information Revolution—A consultation on proposals" is about transforming the way information is collected, analysed, controlled and used in NHS and adult social care services. The information revolution is about moving:

away from information belonging to the system, to patients and service users being clearly in control;

away from patients and service users merely receiving care, to patients and service users being active participants in their care;

away from information based on administrative and technical needs, to information based on patient and service user consultation and good clinical and professional practice;

away from top-down information collection, to a focus on meeting the needs of individuals and local communities;

away from a culture in which information was held close and recorded in forms that were difficult to compare, to one characterised by openness, transparency and comparability;

away from the Government being the main provider of information about the quality of services to a range of organisations being able to offer service information to a variety of audiences; and

in relation to digital technologies, away from an approach where we expect every organisation to use the same system, to one where we connect and join up systems.

These consultations are opportunities to seek the views of patients, the wider public and the NHS, about the challenges that lie ahead, how we can successfully address them, and how we best take forward the choice and information commitments. Responses to the consultation will help us shape how greater choice and control and the information revolution are delivered.

The consultation period for both documents will close on 14 January 2011.

PRIME MINISTER

National Security Strategy

The Prime Minister (Mr David Cameron): I am today publishing Britain's National Security Strategy, "A Strong Britain in an Age of Uncertainty" (Cm 7953). Together with the strategic defence and security review, which will be published tomorrow, it sets out our strategic choices on how to ensure the security of our country. Both will be covered in my oral statement to Parliament tomorrow.

The United Kingdom faces a complex array of threats from a myriad of sources. The national security strategy describes the strategic context within which these threats arise, and how they may develop in the future. It describes Britain's place in the world, as an open, outward-facing nation whose political, economic and cultural authority far exceeds our size. Our national interest requires our continued full and active engagement in world affairs, promoting our security, our prosperity and our values.

Our objectives are ensuring a secure and resilient United Kingdom, and shaping a stable world. In pursuit of those goals, our highest priorities are tackling terrorism, cyber security, international military crises and natural disasters such as floods and pandemics. We will draw together and use all the instruments of national power to tackle these risks, including the armed forces, diplomats, intelligence and development professionals, the police, the private sector and the British people themselves.

The national security strategy, together with the measures in the strategic defence and security review, will enable us to protect our security and advance our interests in the world.

Copies of the national security strategy have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses .

WORK AND PENSIONS

Benefits System (Fraud and Error)

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr Iain Duncan Smith): I am today publishing "Tackling fraud and error in the benefit and tax credits systems" a new joint DWP and HMRC strategy. This will be followed by a wider cross-government approach to tackling fraud, error and debt collection across the rest of the public sector being led by the Minister for the Cabinet Office. This strategy contains proposals to reduce significantly the level of fraud and error in the welfare system. It contains measures to prevent fraud and error from the outset of any claim; root out and correct mistakes where they do happen; deliver tough punishments for those who defraud the system; and deter those who would try to abuse the system in future.

Copies of the report will be deposited in the Libraries of both Houses.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 19 October 2010

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Agency Workers Regulations 2010

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Mr Edward Davey): The Agency Workers Regulations 2010, implementing the European Agency Workers Directive, were made by the previous Administration in January 2010 and are due to come into force in October 2011. The Government are aware of the different points of view that have been expressed by various stakeholders about certain aspects of these regulations and have been considering the way forward.

The directive sets out the principle of equal treatment—that

> "the basic working and employment conditions of temporary agency workers shall be, for the duration of their assignment at a user undertaking, at least those that would apply if they had been recruited directly by that undertaking to occupy the same job".

The default position in the directive is that this principle should apply from day one of an agency worker's assignment. However, the directive also allows member states some flexibility as to how this principle is applied, including the possibility of a qualifying period before the right to equal treatment arises, as long as this is based on an agreement reached by "national level" social partners. Such an agreement was reached by the CBI and TUC, with the support of the previous Administration, in May 2008 and provides the legal basis for the legislation subsequently put in place, including its provision for a qualifying period of 12 weeks.

Since the formation of the coalition, the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills and I have discussed the way forward on this issue with a wide range of stakeholders. Employers and their representatives have expressed a range of concerns regarding the regulations, arguing for amendments before their entry into force that might reduce the burden they place on business. The Secretary of State and I have both had considerable sympathy for some of the arguments we have heard, particularly proposals to simplify the definition of "pay" under the regulations (especially as far as the administration of performance-related bonuses are concerned) and the administrative requirements around the application of the qualifying period to patterns of infrequent, short-term assignments.

However, the Government's ability to make changes to address such matters is constrained by the fact that the regulations are based to a significant degree on the agreement brokered by the previous Administration between the CBI and TUC. Due to this unique legal situation, any amendments proposed to the regulations touching upon the subject matter of the CBI and TUC agreement, which did not have the agreement of those parties, would face the risk of being set aside in the courts in the event of a legal challenge.

Were that to happen, the effect could be to call into question the very foundation for the fundamentals of the implementing legislation, crucially including the 12-week qualifying period itself.

The Secretary of State and I have therefore discussed this matter on a number of occasions with both the CBI and the TUC, seeking agreement on changes that we consider would have improved the implementation regime, to the potential benefit of both employers and agency workers. Unfortunately it has not been possible to find a way forward that would be acceptable to both parties.

This outcome is clearly disappointing. However, the Government have taken the view that the absolute priority must be not to take any steps that could put at risk the 12-week qualifying period, which significantly mitigates the burdens the legislation will place on employers. The Government will not therefore be proceeding with any amendment of the regulations themselves. We will instead now use the time that is still available before the regulations' entry into force to develop the best possible guidance to help employers comply with their new obligations.

DEFENCE

Defence Training

The Secretary of State for Defence (Dr Liam Fox): The defence training rationalisation project (DTR) was designed to collocate technical training on a single site at MOD St Athan in south Wales, thereby providing improved, more efficient services' aeronautical, electro-mechanical and communication and information systems specialist training and to deliver it from new facilities.

The Metrix consortium was appointed as preferred bidder in January 2007 subject to it developing an affordable and value-for-money contract proposal. Given the significance of this project and the opportunity to provide a world-class training facility, the Ministry of Defence has worked tirelessly to deliver this project. However, it is now clear that Metrix cannot deliver an affordable, commercially robust proposal within the prescribed period and it has therefore been necessary to terminate the DTR procurement and Metrix's appointment as preferred bidder.

Technical training, collocated on as few sites as possible, remains in our view the best solution for our armed forces. Equally, St Athan was previously chosen as the best location on which to collocate that training for good reasons, and we still hope to base our future defence training solution there. We will however now carry out some work before finalising the best way ahead; including to confirm both our training and estates requirement, and the best way to structure the solution that will meet them.

To ensure momentum is not lost, work on the alternative options will begin as soon as possible and we hope to be able to announce our future plans in the spring.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Veterinary Products Committee

The Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mr James Paice): I have received the annual report of the Veterinary Products Committee and its sub-committees 2009, which has been published today.

Copies of the report have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

I am pleased to acknowledge the valuable work done by the distinguished members of the Veterinary Products Committee and its sub-committees and thank them for the time and effort dedicated in the public interest to this important work.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Court of Justice of the European Union (Greek Judge)

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague): At a conference of representatives of Governments of member states on 20 October 2010 the appointment of a Greek judge to the General Court is to be considered.

The nomination is in respect of Dimitrios Gratsias.

Having consulted with the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice and the Attorney-General, I agree to the appointment.

HEALTH

NHS Organ Donor Register

The Secretary of State for Health (Mr Andrew Lansley): I am today publishing the report of an independent review of the NHS organ donor register (ODR) by Professor Sir Gordon Duff. The review, announced on 11 April, was prompted by an error in the recording of the donation wishes of a number of registrants.

I am extremely grateful to Sir Gordon for establishing so clearly the circumstances surrounding this serious error, for his recommendations on how to ensure it does not happen again, and for his wider review of the ODR.

Organ donation relies on the generosity of people who are willing to donate organs after their death to help change or save the lives of others. If organ donation is to help the many people in need of a transplant, it is essential that people who join the ODR have confidence that their wishes are accurately recorded. It is extremely regrettable that as a result of this error donation decisions were influenced by incorrect information in 25 cases. NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) has rightly apologised to the affected families. I would like to offer my condolences to the families concerned for their loss and to express gratitude to their late relative for agreeing to be a donor.

Sir Gordon's review found that the error originated in 1999 when faulty data conversion software was used by UK Transplant (now part of NHSBT) to upload data on individuals' organ donation wishes from the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, when moving to a new computer system. These individuals had elected, when completing their driving licence application form, to donate some, but not all of their organs. In 25 cases the decision by the donor's relatives to agree to the donation of a particular organ was made using inaccurate information about the donor's wishes as a result of the error. Sir Gordon concluded that the error was avoidable if systematic data verification procedures had been in place in 1999.

The report provides a detailed explanation of how the error occurred, how it came to light, and why it was not uncovered sooner. It also outlines the remedial action taken by NHSBT and the actions taken to prevent a recurrence. Sir Gordon concludes that once the error was identified and brought to the attention of NHSBT's senior managers it was handled efficiently and sensitively.

Sir Gordon has also concluded that the ODR is now expected to fulfil functions for which it was not originally designed. He believes that a new interactive ODR based on 21st century technology would help to reduce the scope for human error inherent in the current system. He recommends that a new ODR should be designed and commissioned as soon as resources allow. We will discuss this recommendation with NHSBT, once it has completed its planned scoping and costing of a future operating model.

Sir Gordon has made a number of other recommendations addressed to NHSBT which are designed to ensure that the register reflects more clearly the wishes of those registered, and that confidence in the system is maintained. We look to NHSBT to consider those recommendations carefully and to respond accordingly.

Sir Gordon's report has been placed in the Library and copies are available for hon. Members in the Vote Office.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 20 October 2010

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

EU Competitiveness Council

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Mr Edward Davey): The EU Competitiveness Council took place in Luxembourg on 11-12 October 2010. Baroness Wilcox, the Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills represented the UK on internal market issues and Andy Lebrecht, the UK's Deputy Permanent Representative to the EU represented the UK when a Minister was not in attendance. A summary of the discussions follows.

Single Market Act

The Commission outlined its ambitions for the next steps on the Single Market Act. These would include measures to make the single market work for business and be at the service of citizens. The Commission said their document would be launched on 27 October followed by a three to four month public consultation. The UK stated its main priorities were free trade and ensuring that proposals would bring economic benefits to the EU. It proposed the Commission should identify the top 20 barriers to business and consumers as a way of identifying the success of the Act. This was widely welcomed.

The EU Patent

The presidency and the Commission reaffirmed their commitment to create a business friendly EU patent. The latest compromise on the proposal for a language translation regime was announced by the presidency, but some member states remain opposed. The UK and a majority of member states supported the proposal, but a few member states remain opposed. The presidency reiterated its desire to find a unanimous solution between member states, and announced that the issue would be discussed at an additional Competitiveness Council, now confirmed for 10 November.

Innovation

The Commission presented its recent Innovation Union strategy to industry and research Ministers separately. The strategy was largely welcomed. The UK highlighted the economic potential that could be realised by innovation, welcoming the aim to develop ways to influence more private sector financing. It suggested future R and D framework programmes to support research should have a clear outcome, but felt some initiatives in the Innovation Union could prove sensitive.

Other member states did not welcome a proposal to set up a new Innovation Council. Most preferred innovation work to be taken forward by the Competitiveness Council and were open to it playing an enhanced role in monitoring performance.

There was a discussion by research Ministers over lunch on Commission ideas to set up European innovation partnerships. Ministers felt these should be governed from the "bottom up" rather than driven by political priorities, and have a light touch with close private sector involvement.

The Council agreed conclusions on tourism, simplifying rules governing the EU's R and D funding programmes, and approved the launch of three joint programmes on agriculture, food security and climate change; cultural heritage; and healthy eating.

TREASURY

Equitable Life Payment Scheme

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr Mark Hoban): Our programme for government pledged to

> "implement the Parliamentary…Ombudsman's recommendation to make fair and transparent payments to Equitable Life policyholders, through an independent payment scheme, for their relative loss as a consequence of regulatory failure."

It has been this Government's priority to provide a swift resolution to policyholders who have been waiting 10 years for justice.

A commitment to fair payments must be founded on a fair assessment of the losses suffered by policyholders, and that must start with the ombudsman's approach. She sets this out in her report, "Equitable Life: a decade of regulatory failure", where she introduces the concept of "relative loss": that is the difference between what Equitable Life policyholders actually received from their policies, and what they would have received if they had invested elsewhere .The representations I have received over the summer from policyholders and their representatives have overwhelmingly supported this definition, and I believe that it is the right basis for calculating loss.

I am aware that parts of Sir John's analysis were controversial, and I have always said that I would consider representations from interested parties on his work alongside it. Last week's inquiry by the Public Administration Select Committee and their subsequent report recommended that Sir John's final findings could not be used in order to determine the payments due to policyholders as his terms of reference included only the findings of maladministration accepted by the previous Government.

I have therefore decided to reject the final findings of Sir John's report, as the later parts of his methodology are dependent upon which of the parliamentary ombudsman's findings were included in his terms of reference, and which were not.

However, Sir John's methodology includes a calculation of total relative loss, calculated from the end of 1992, is not affected by the restrictions on his terms of reference. Although there is disagreement around some aspects of this figure, there is considerable consensus around the main tenets that produce it, including the "alternative approach" he advocates which removes the need for individual assessment of policyholders' claims. The comparators chosen to reach it have generally been recognised as being appropriate by various interested parties. The parliamentary ombudsman has also told me that she broadly supports the manner in which Sir John has approached this calculation.

Therefore, I believe that it is a fair representation of the relative loss suffered by policyholders. Towers Watson calculate this figure as £4.3 billion.

As the parliamentary ombudsman and PASC have recognised, the Equitable Life payments scheme must deliver fairness to taxpayers as well as policyholders. Given the significant pressures on public finances, it would not be fair to taxpayers for the payments scheme to pay out the full value of relative loss. Taking into consideration other spending commitments , and the reduction in bonuses suffered by policyholders as a result of the policy value cuts in 2001 and 2003, the Government have decided that £1 billion should be allocated to the payments scheme in the first three years of this spending review period.

However, when affordability is taken into consideration, it is important that the position of those who have been hardest hit by their losses is recognised. Policyholders with with profits annuities were particularly vulnerable to reductions in the value of their policies because they were unable to move their funds elsewhere, or to mitigate the impact of their losses through employment. They have consistently been highlighted to me by all groups as those most in need of compensation.

In the light of these factors, the Government will cover the cost of the total relative loss suffered by with profits annuitants (WPAs) who took out policies after 1 September 1992, estimated at £620 million. WPAs will receive regular payments, based on their full past and future relative losses.

The £1 billion set aside for the first three years of this spending review period will cover both the cost of the first three years of WPA regular payments, and all payments to other policyholders. The Independent Commission on Equitable Life Payments will advise on the allocation of funding to policyholders other than WPAs. I have also asked the independent commission to advise me on the prioritisation of payments to policyholders within this group, to ensure that those whose need is greatest are paid first. WPAs will continue to receive regular payments beyond the spending review period, over the course of their lifetime. In this way, the payments will effectively replace the income that they would have received from their Equitable Life policies. Once these payments are taken into account, I expect that the total amount paid out through the scheme will be in the region of £1.5 billion.

I have further decided that these payments will be free of tax.

I have today written to the Independent Commission on Equitable Life Payments informing them of my decision and its implications for their work, and reiterating my request for their advice on how this funding should be distributed by the end of January. As I announced on 22 July, it is our ambition to make the first payments to victims by the middle of 2011, and I hope that all parties will work together to help meet this goal.

I am publishing alongside this the Government's response to PASC's Third Report on Equitable Life, copies of which are available in the Vote Office. I am further publishing an updated letter from Towers Watson providing their final calculation of relative loss figures. This is available on the HM Treasury website, along with further information.

CABINET OFFICE

Boundary Commission for Wales: Interim Reviews

The Deputy Prime Minister (Mr Nick Clegg): I have received notice in writing from the Boundary Commission for Wales of commencement of three interim reviews. The reviews will be of the boundaries of the parliamentary and assembly constituencies of:

Cardiff North County Constituency
Cardiff South and Penarth County Constituency
Ogmore County Constituency
Pontypridd County Constituency
Vale of Glamorgan County Constituency

And the Welsh electoral regions of:

South Wales Central Assembly Electoral Region
South Wales West Assembly Electoral Region.

HEALTH

Parliamentary Written Question (Correction)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health (Anne Milton): I regret that the written answers given to my hon. Friends the Members for Southend West (Mr Amess) on 10 June 2010, *Official Report*, col. 219W, and for Suffolk Coastal (Dr Coffey) on 13 July, *Official Report*, col.705-6W, were incorrect. They should not have included the line that information on these contracts is not collected centrally. I have been advised that the Department does collect limited information covering independent sector costs.

The correct reply to my hon. Friends the Members for Southend West and for Suffolk Costal is that the Department does collect limited information on the cost to NHS providers (NHS trusts and primary care trust provider arms) of contracting services from independent sector providers. A revised response to the questions is set out below.

Table 1: Costs to NHS providers of Abortions—2008-09

	£ million
Cost to NHS organisations of providing abortion	82.1
Cost to NHS providers of contracting abortions from independent sector providers	10.4

Source 2008-09 reference costs

Note

The above excludes the cost of abortions commissioned directly by primary care trusts from the independent sector, which is not collected centrally. This means that the figure of £ 10.4 million quoted above is not representative of the total cost to the NHS of abortions carried out by independent sector providers, which in 2009 accounted for approximately 60% of all abortions carried out. Total NHS costs covering 2010 are not currently available.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 21 October 2010

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Education (Student Support) Regulations 2009 (Amendment) Regulations 2010

The Minister for Universities and Science (Mr David Willetts): I am today confirming the student finance package for higher education students undertaking a course of study in the academic year beginning September 2011.

For all new and continuing full-time students in 2011-12 the package of maintenance support will be maintained at existing levels.

The maximum tuition fees for full-time courses in 2011-12 will be uprated in line with inflation to £3,375 a year. The amount of tuition fee loan will also be increased to match this amount.

For those students undertaking part-time courses the maximum fee and course grants will also be maintained at 2010-11 levels.

To implement the 2011-12 increase in fee support, and make some minor policy and technical amendments to student support regulations, I have today laid the Education (Student Support) Regulations 2009 (Amendment) Regulations 2010 before both Houses.

TREASURY

Bank Levy (Draft Legislation)

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr Mark Hoban): The Government have published draft legislation on the bank levy announced as part of the Budget in June.

The Government believe that banks should make a full and fair contribution in respect of the potential risks they pose to the UK financial system and wider economy. The Chancellor therefore announced as part of the June Budget that the Government will introduce a levy based on banks' balance sheets to take effect from 1 January 2011. Following on from this announcement, and consistent with the Government's approach to tax policy making, the Government published a consultation document in July. Following the conclusion of the consultation on 5 October, the Government are now taking forward the policy process by publishing the relevant draft legislation.

The levy has been designed to encourage less risky funding and complements the wider agenda to improve regulatory standards and enhance financial stability. It will apply to the global balance sheets of UK banks, and the UK operations of banks from other countries. Once fully in place, the levy is expected to generate around £2.5 billion of annual revenues.

The consultation sought views on a number of technical aspects of the design and implementation of the levy. The Government have considered carefully the responses from all interested parties. The draft legislation sets out the Government's policy decisions on aspects of the design, including:

> the £20 billion threshold is replaced by an allowance;
>
> a principles based approach for the netting of derivatives and other assets and liabilities;
>
> a deduction for high-quality liquid assets; and
>
> uninsured customer deposits (except for those from financial institutions) will be subject to the half rate.

The draft legislation is accompanied by explanatory notes and a consultation response summarising the Government's policy decisions. Final draft legislation will be published towards the end of the year, alongside final confirmation of the rate of the levy, as part of consolidated draft clauses planned for the Finance Bill 2011.

Copies of the draft legislation, explanatory notes and consultation response are available in the Vote Office and have been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses. Copies of these documents are also available via the HM Treasury and HM Revenue and Customs websites.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Council Tax

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr Eric Pickles): I am pleased to inform the House that the spending review has allocated a £650 million fund to help local authorities to implement a council tax freeze in England in 2011-12. Council tax has more than doubled since 1997 and the freeze will offer real help to hard-working families and those on fixed incomes such as pensioners. It will help save local taxpayers in England up to £70 living in an average band D home in England.

Alongside this, the Government continue to provide more flexibility for councils to protect front-line services like rubbish collections and care for the elderly. They intend to stop the council tax revaluation which would have led to greater tax bills over the lifetime of this Parliament for many families. The Government also intend to give local residents a new power to veto excessive council tax rises in the future, both to protect the interests of local communities and strengthen local democracy.

My Department has written to local authorities today with full details of how the scheme will operate. For the benefit of the House, the key elements are as follows:

> (a) The scheme will be voluntary; and will apply separately to each billing and major precepting authority in England (including police and fire and rescue authorities) rather than to each council tax bill issued. Local precepting authorities, such as town and parish councils, will not be included in the scheme.
>
> (b) Where an authority does not increase its basic amount of council tax in 2011-12 compared with 2010-11, it will be eligible to receive a grant equivalent to a 2.5% increase in its 2010-11 band D figure multiplied by the latest available tax base figure. Slightly different arrangements—still based upon a 2.5% grant—will apply for the Greater London authority and for those authorities which restructured in 2009, to reflect their unique circumstances.

> (c) The police authorities of Greater Manchester and Nottinghamshire that are subject to capping in advance for 2011-12, will be able to take part in the scheme.
>
> (d) The spending review has concluded that funding can only be provided to support a council tax freeze for 2011-12. However, the Government intend to provide supplementary funding to local authorities in subsequent years of the spending review to compensate them for the council tax income forgone during the period of the freeze.

The Government are delivering on their promise to deliver a freeze, which is good news for council tax payers in England. The Government expect all local, fire and police authorities to sign up to the freeze and can see no reason why they might choose to do otherwise. Nevertheless, we will not allow these authorities to set an excessive council tax increase and are prepared to use capping powers where necessary. I also urge town and parish councils to exercise restraint and make sure no council tax payer faces an increased bill.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Spending Review Statement

The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (Mr Jeremy Hunt): By 2014-15, the end of this spending review period, DCMS's combined capital and resource budget will be 25% lower than in 2010-11.

The purpose of this statement is to explain in more detail what this means for those working in our sectors.

The Government recognise that these are difficult cuts. However, it has had no choice, given the pressing need to reduce the deficit.

In looking to make savings my strategy has been based on four principles:

> *Cutting waste and inefficiency and stopping lower priority projects.* As part of this settlement I am reducing administration costs in my own Department by 50% and I am demanding similar reductions from all of the major bodies we fund. This is in addition to our previously announced decision to abolish a number of public bodies including the UK Film Council and the Museums Libraries and Archives Council.
>
> *Protecting the front line as much as possible.* By taking tough action elsewhere, we are managing to protect the National Museums and the British Library, the renaissance in the regions programme, regularly funded arts organisations. Whole sport plans for national governing bodies, the public lending right and the British Film Industry (BFI). Funding for these will fall by no more than 15% in real terms over the spending review period, requiring tough but manageable efficiencies.
>
> *Delivering a safe and successful Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2012.* As part of this settlement we are maintaining the planned £9.3 billion Olympic funding package. This ensures that the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) is fully funded through to the completion of the programme and that we retain adequate contingency to deal with key risks. However, we will continue to bear down on these costs, and have announced a number of savings, including the stadium "wrap".
>
> *Contributing to Economic Growth.* As part of this settlement we are boosting tourism by protecting Visit Britain's £50 million marketing budget and challenging industry to match it. We are retaining support for film and the tax credit, and are also investing £230 million in broadband infrastructure, including a number of superfast broadband pilot projects.

In addition the BBC will contribute an additional £150 million per year for broadband in the four years between 2013-14 and 2016-17. This is part of a wider agreement with the BBC that will freeze the licence fee at £145.50 until April 2017. As part of this deal the BBC has agreed to take on a suite of additional spending requirements, including the BBC World Service, a significant contribution to S4C and support for local television.

Finally with great regret I have also taken the decision to withdraw funding from the Commission for Architecture and Built Environment (CABE).

The action I have taken will ensure that our sectors will get through the coming years without long-term damage. They will also benefit from our decision to restore the lottery to its original good causes, which will mean that the arts, sports and heritage sectors will each get £50 million a year extra funding from 2012.

More detail on our resource settlement is provided below and in the accompanying tables which set out DCMS's budgets by sector and by funded bodies and programmes.

I am also providing an outline of my capital investment plan for the spending review period. This includes support for projects of major significance such as redevelopments of the British Museum and the Tate Modern, as well as continued support for sports facilities through Sport England.

In line with the Government's commitment to transparency, I will publish all of the allocation letters I am sending to our funded bodies so that the public can see how their money is being spent and what we expect in return.

While we have had to make a number of very difficult decisions, we have acted in a decisive way that maximises the resources going to the front line. Our priority now is to get on with delivering the services the public want over the period of this Parliament and beyond.

Delivering a Safe and Successful Olympic and Paralympic Games

The top priority for my Department remains the delivery of a safe and successful Olympic and Paralympic Games. London 2012 will be a defining moment for our nation, when the eyes of the world will be upon us.

The public sector funding package available for the games will remain at £9.3 billion. Government funding for the programme, excluding security, will be held by my Department. The Greater London Authority (GLA) and Olympic Lottery Distributor will continue to contribute as per the 2007 spending review agreement. Security funding will be provided primarily by the Home Office, based on the principle that costs will lie where they fall.

This settlement ensures that the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) is fully funded through to the completion of the programme. We have reduced the ODA's forecast completion cost by £20 million, in part by no longer delivering the external "Wrap" around the Olympic stadium, subject to planning conditions, and unless alternative sources of funding can be found.

In recognition of the changing focus of the programme from construction to the operational delivery of the games, the spending review settlement makes provision totalling around £0.5 billion for specific operational requirements.

As noted in the national security strategy, we must not underestimate the security challenge. The spending review settlement makes provision to ensure that all Olympic and Paralympic sporting and non-sporting venues, totalling over 100, are secure throughout the preparatory phase and six weeks of Olympic and Paralympic competition. This is over and above the funding for Olympic policing and wider security, but both are contained within the £9.3 billion funding package. As set out in the bid, venue security is a shared responsibility of the event organiser—the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG)—and the Government. LOCOG will lead the delivery of securing venues in collaboration with the police and other security agencies.

The settlement will also provide for specific extra responsibilities, for host local authorities where the burden imposed for specific games-time operations is of such a scale that it should not be borne solely by local council tax payers, and for shared responsibilities for the safety of spectators and visitors between transport hubs and sporting venues where existing budgets cannot cover the additional requirement.

The remainder of the funding package—around £0.5 billion—will be held as an Olympic contingency for cross-programme issues including a material change in security circumstances. Contingency will be strictly controlled and will only be released to meet costs that are essential for the delivery of the games, where they cannot reasonably be met from existing budgets. The contingency will be held partly by DCMS and partly within HM Treasury's general reserve.

The Government remain committed to the public sector funding half of the incremental cost of the Paralympic Games. This is included within the £9.3 billion funding package. Separately, and outside of the £9.3 billion funding package, all Government Departments are clear as to their operational responsibilities and will fund them as required. This is recognised in their settlements.

The capital and resource allocations for the DCMS element of the Olympic and Paralympic programme are set out in the table which accompanies this statement. Further details of the spending review outcome for the Olympic programme will be provided in the next quarterly economic report on the games, due to be published on 9 November.

SUPPORTING ELITE, COMMUNITY AND YOUTH SPORT

The Government remain committed to elite, community and youth sport in the run up to hosting the London 2012 games, and is confident it can deliver a real and lasting legacy.

We have made clear to UK Sport that their first priority must continue to be world class funding for Olympic and Paralympic sport in order to deliver medal success on the world stage. As part of this settlement, they will maintain the agreed funding for Olympic and Paralympic sports up to 2012, subject to the usual performance related decisions, as well as seeking to maximise performance in Glasgow 2014 and at the next Winter Olympics and Paralympics. After 2012 there will be reductions to the direct budget for Olympic and Paralympic sports but we are confident that these can be limited to 15% in real terms and we have made clear we want UK Sport to look hard for additional private sector sponsorship to make up for this.

We have also secured a good settlement for sport's national governing bodies as part of the overall settlement with Sport England. In our discussions with them, we have been clear that resource funding for Whole Sport Plans (WSPs) is to be protected and subject to a cut of no more than 15% in real terms over the period of this spending review. The resource budget for these plans will be in addition to continued lottery funding and capital funding.

Protecting the front line in this way will mean some tough choices and I have been clear with both UK Sport and Sport England that their spending on administration needs to be reduced by 50% by the end of the spending review period. While we are planning for the organisations to merge after the Olympics, we expect them to start finding administrative savings through closer working before then.

Alongside continued funding for these two organisations, we will continue to support UK Anti-Doping (UKAD) and the Football Licensing Authority (FLA). Given their important work both these organisations will receive below average reductions in funding. We expect them to find this from administration and efficiency rather than reduced services.

PROTECTING ARTS, MUSEUMS AND LIBRARIES

This country has some of the finest cultural institutions in the world and we are determined to protect them so they can be enjoyed by everybody both now and in the future. Our starting point has been to look for large savings to the amount of public money spent on bureaucracy. We have previously announced that we are abolishing the Museums Libraries and Archives Council, and as part of this settlement we are asking Arts Council England to reduce their administration budget by 50% as well as cutting back sharply on discretionary, non essential, spend.

By taking these tough decisions we are able to limit any damage to the front line. We have been clear with the Arts Council that it needs to protect the grants it makes to regularly funded arts organisations, the backbone of this country's artistic life. Individual decisions about which organisations to fund are for the Arts Council to make, but we have been clear that the total funding for arts organisations is to be reduced by no more than 15% in real terms over the spending review period.

We are providing similar protection to the British Library and the National and non- National Museums which my Department sponsors. By limiting reductions to their resource funding to 15% in real terms over the period, we are ensuring they are able to continue with the successful policy of free entry.

I am also giving these organisations the freedom to access up to £143 million of their historic reserves over the next four years. This is an important step towards delivering on the coalition commitment to providing greater freedoms for national museums and will encourage them to work towards attracting further philanthropic donations.

Another area I am able to protect is the successful renaissance in the regions programme which has done so much to improve the quality of museums in all parts of the country. While we are abolishing the MLA, this programme will transfer to another body from 2012 with cuts to its budget limited to 15% in real terms.

We have also agreed to transfer the administration of the public lending right (PLR), the fund which compensates authors for the loans of their books in public libraries. While the total funding for the PLR will be reduced over the spending review period, this will also be limited to 15% in real terms and the fund will continue to be ring fenced. Given the need to find savings, we have decided at this stage not to extend the fund to cover audio and e-books.

SAFEGUARDING OUR HERITAGE

We also remain wholly committed to safeguarding our heritage for future generations.

As part of this settlement, English Heritage and the other grant giving bodies will remain as separate and effective funders for the sector. We are, however, demanding significant efficiencies and as with other major bodies we are insisting that English Heritage reduces its administration budgets by 50% over the spending review period and cuts back on non-essential services.

We want English Heritage to prioritise core activities such as planning advice, grants for heritage at risk and the conservation and maintenance of sites in its care. We also want them to strengthen their fundraising capacity and increase self-generated income.

The settlement also allows us to continue with funding some of our smaller but vitally important heritage organisations. While they too will be expected to find savings on their running costs, we will continue to support the likes of the Royal Naval College in Greenwich, the Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust and the Churches Conservation Trust to carry on their important work with better than average settlements. Grants to the Royal Household for the occupied Royal Palaces will also be protected, with reductions in funding of less than 13% in real terms.

We have also awarded a fixed sum every year to continue the listed places of worship scheme, which has already helped over 9,000 local communities up and down the country. In line with previous announcements, from January 2011 we will be returning this scheme to its original scope of eligibility and these restrictions will also apply for the next spending review period.

Protecting these services has meant taking some tough decisions. One of these is to reduce funding for the royal parks. Another is our decision to withdraw our funding for the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CASE). While I recognise the part that CABE has played in promoting well designed buildings and public spaces, I have judged that the most pressing need is to protect and maintain other parts of our culture and heritage.

TOURISM

One of the reasons why we are protecting our cultural institutions is that they play a key role in promoting tourism, an important industry which we are committed to developing.

As part of this settlement we have agreed that VisitBritain and VisitEngland will continue to play a crucial role in this area but like all our other major bodies they will have to find administrative savings of 50% over the next four years.

We also want their remaining spending to be more focused, targeted and effective. In the case of VisitBritain, this means concentrating on international marketing and PR activity in the top and emerging international markets. Over the course of this spending review period we are asking them to create a powerful £100 million partnership marketing fund, with matching funds from the industry and Government to promote the UK as a tourist destination before, during and after the Olympic games.

At the same time we want VisitEngland to focus more on investment in and support for destination management organisations and the local businesses, local authorities and enterprise partnerships involved in tourism up and down the country.

More information on all of this will be provided as part of our tourism strategy, to be published later this year, which will set out a detailed vision for boosting UK tourism and capitalising on hosting the Olympics in 2012.

MEDIA

Through this spending review settlement we will continue to champion our creative industries and the contribution that they make to economic growth.

One of the ways we will do this is by establishing one of the fastest broadband networks in Europe. Over the next four years we will invest £230 million in broadband. In addition, the BBC will contribute an additional £150 million per year for broadband in the four years between 2013-14 and 2016-17.

We are committed to supporting an independent BBC but are also keen to drive efficiencies and ensure better value for money for the licence fee payer. To that end, we have agreed the licence fee settlement for the remainder of the charter period. The level of the licence fee will be frozen at £145.50 until April 2017 and as part of this deal the BBC has agreed to take on a suite of additional spending requirements, including the BBC World Service, a significant contribution to S4C and support for local television.

We are committed to the future of Welsh language broadcasting and as part of the BBC licence fee deal we have secured S4C's funding for four years. Subject to the current rules around the RPI link being changed as part of the Public Bodies Bill which will be introduced later this year, S4C's budget will be reduced from its current levels by 24.4% over the spending review period and a partnership arrangement with the BBC will start by 2013-14. While the Government will provide the majority of funding to S4C over the SR period, the BBC will become the primary funder of S4C from 2013-14. This will happen under a new a partnership between S4C and the BBC which will retain S4Cs unique identity and editorial independence.

We are also committed to supporting our film industry. As with other areas we are determined to eradicate waste and bureaucracy and we have previously announced our decision to abolish the UK Film Council by 1 April 2012.

While we are still discussing how best to support the industry going forward we are committed to seeking to protect funding for a number of important areas over the next four years. This includes support for the film industry in the nations and in the regions, the media desk which helps secure and administer European funding, support for inward investment and work to carry out certification as part of the system of tax relief for British films.

It also includes support for the BFI which we will fund directly to maintain its important work, not least caring for one of the world's richest and most significant collections of film archives. As with other front line services, such as museums and RFOs, we are committed to limiting reductions in their funding to no more than 15% in real terms over the course of the spending review period.

Capital and resource allocations for the DCMS element of the Olympic and Paralympic programme.

Nominal excluding Depreciation £m	*2011-12*	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*
Capital DEL	1090.6	220.1	-35.1[1]	-101.0[1]
Resource DEL	77.6	682.0	42.4	-62.0[2]
Of which DCMS allocation	64.7	568.3	35.3	0
Of which CLG transfer	12.9	113.7	7.1	0

[1] The negative capital provision in 2013-14 and 2014-15 indicates expected capital receipts from the sale of the Olympic Village.

[2] The negative resource funding provision in 2014-15 is income from the Greater London Authority (GLA) which is due to be returned to the Exchequer.

Summary Resource Allocations

		2011-12	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*	
		Total RDEL	*Total RDEL*	*Total RDEL*	*Total RDEL*	*% Reduction over the Period*
1	British Museum	42.102	41.324	40.701	40.575	15%
2	Natural History Museum	44.404	43.583	42.926	42.793	15%
3	Imperial War Museum	19.750	19.395	19.103	19.043	15%
4	National Gallery	22.959	22.535	22.195	22.126	15%
5	National Maritime Museum	15.501	15.215	14.985	14.939	15%
6	National Museums Liverpool	20.526	20.146	19.842	19.781	15%
7	National Portrait Gallery	7.170	7.038	6.932	6.910	15%
8	National Museum of Science & Industry	35.506	34.849	34.324	34.217	15%
9	Tate Gallery	32.082	31.489	31.014	30.918	15%
10	Victoria & Albert Museum	39.637	38.904	38.318	38.199	15%
11	Wallace Collection	2.724	2.674	2.633	2.625	15%
12	Museum of Science & Industry, Manchester	3.790	3.719	3.663	3.652	15%
13	Sir John Soane's Museum	1.104	1.084	1.068	1.064	15%
14	Horniman Museum	4.067	3.991	3.931	3.919	15%
15	Geffrye Museum	1.596	1.567	1.543	1.538	15%
16	Royal Armouries	7.642	7.501	7.388	7.365	15%
17	Grants to Smaller Museums	4.242	4.164	4.101	4.088	15%
18	Design Museum	0.328	0.257	0.202	0.163	65%
19	British Library	93.467	91.739	90.355	90.075	15%
20	Public Lending Right	7.218	7.084	6.977	5.956	15%
21	Renaissance in the Regions	45.567	44.725	44.050	43.914	15%
22	Arts Council of England[1]	387.728	359.179	351.619	349.392	29%
23	The Royal Parks Agency	14.929	14.208	13.569	12.962	25%
24	Listed Places of Worship[1]	12.081	12.325	12.679	13.015	19%
25	English Heritage[1]	114.742	103.362	97.764	95.962	32%
26	Churches Conservation Trust	2.926	2.828	2.743	2.695	20%
27	Royal Household	15.000	15.000	15.000	15.000	13%
28	Sport England	69.834	68.057	61.984	60.112	33%
29	UK Sport	60.000	65.000	39.000	43.000	28%
30	UKAD	6.345	6.498	6.164	5.852	13%
31	FLA	1.197	1.176	1.158	1.142	15%
32	Visit Britain	35.700	32.900	30.700	28.516	34%
33	British Film Institute	14.095	13.834	13.625	13.583	15%
34	S4C	90.000	83.000	6.700	7.000	94%
35	Department	46.481	44.576	29.045	27.251	50%
36	Other Spend	47.349	43.545	59.298	14.013	
	Total Allocations	*1,369.8*	*1,308.5*	*1,177.3*	*1,125.4*	*24%*

[1] These figures include both resource and capital allocations to reflect the shifts in accounting treatment between resource and capital being made over the spending review period.

Near Cash Resource Savings Across DCMS Spend

		Profile Over SR Period				*Reduction*
		2011-12	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*	*%*
A	*Protected spend: 15% savings or less*					
A1	Museums, Galleries & British Library	405.7	398.2	392.2	391.0	15%
A2	Renaissance in the Regions	45.6	44.7	44.1	43.9	15%
A3	Grants to Regularly Funded Arts Organisations[1]	335.6	329.5	324.6	319.9	15%
A4	Whole Sport Plans	23.7	23.3	22.9	22.6	15%
A5	Elite Athlete Funding	39.8	39.1	38.5	38.0	15%
A6	Football Licensing Authority	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.1	15%
A7	British Film Institute	14.1	13.8	13.6	13.6	15%
AT	*Total*	*865.8*	*849.9*	*837.2*	*830.1*	*15%*
B	*20% to 25% savings*					
B1	The Royal Parks Agency	14.9	14.2	13.6	13.0	25%
B2	Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	20%
B4	Royal Naval College Greenwich	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.3	20%
B5	Ceremonial Support	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.7	25%
B6	Humanitarian Assistance Unit	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	25%
B7	Listed Places of Worship	10.8	11.0	11.3	11.6	20%
B8	Churches Conservation Trust	2.9	2.8	2.7	2.7	20%
B9	Occupied Royal Palaces	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	13%
B10	UK Anti-doping & World Anti-doping Agency	6.3	6.5	6.2	5.9	19%
B11	S4C[2]	90.0	83.0	83.0	83.0	24%
BT	*Total*	*142.9*	*135.4*	*134.5*	*133.8*	*23%*
C	*Targeted savings*					
C1	English Heritage Other	61.6	58.1	55.6	55.2	26%
C2	English Heritage Grants	19.4	15.3	15.7	16.1	38%
C3	Tourism Spending	35.7	32.9	30.7	28.5	38%
C4	Media Sport	3.8	3.5	3.3	3.1	35%
C5	Other Sport Spending	51.6	58.0	28.6	35.1	40%
C6	Design Museum	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	65%
C7	Arts Council Administration and other Arts Spending	40.0	17.8	15.3	18.0	83%
C9	English Heritage Administration	21.7	18.7	16.1	13.9	50%
C10	Sport Administration	14.7	12.6	10.9	9.4	50%
C11	DCMS Administration	46.5	44.6	29.0	27.3	50%
CT	*Total*	*295.3*	*261.7*		*206.7*	*50%*
D	*Cease Funding*					
D1	Museums Libraries and Archive Council	6.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	100%
D3	UK Film Council	4.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	100%
D4	CABE	3.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	100%
DT	*Total*	*14.4*	*0.0*	*0.0*	*0.0*	*100%*
E	Other Spend	51.5	61.6	76.4	30.8	
F	Adjustment to Broadcasting spend			(76.3)	(76.0)	
F	*Total Spend*	*1,369.8*	*1,308.5*	*1,177.3*	*1,125.4*	*24%*

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[1] This represents an indicative budget, final decisions will be taken by the Arts Council in due course.

[2] S4C—After 2012-13 S4C will be mainly funded by the BBC through the licence fee. These figures show funding from both DCMS and the licence fee.

DCMS Capital Plan

Group	*2011-12*	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*
Grants and core maintenance				
1. Maintenance and core capital expenditure	33.0	34.0	35.0	38.5
2. Sport England—Football Foundation	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
3. Sport England—Whole Sport Plans	14.0	14.0	14.0	14.0
4. Arts Council England—capital grants	11.7	11.5	11.4	11.2
5. DCMS core grants	1.0	2.5	2.0	2.0
6. NHMF	0.0	5.0	10.0	5.0
7. English Heritage—capital grants	9.1	8.3	7.6	6.9
8. Listed places of worship—capital grants	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.4
9. Other core capital		0.1		6.0
Broadband Funding				
10. Universal service commitment	45.0	84.0	15.0	15.0
Museum Reserves				
11. Agreed drawdown of historic reserves	29.0	56.0	39.0	19.0
Projects underway				
12. Transforming Tate Modern		0.9	1.3	
13. UK Film Council screen heritage	5.0			
14. British Library newspaper strategy	11.1	1.5		
15. British Museum—north west development	8.9			
Projects planned				
16. English Heritage—National Monuments Record Archive	0.9	0.9	0.5	
17. Cutty Sark	3.0			
Total Capital DEL	*183.0*	*230.0*	*147.0*	*129.0*

JUSTICE

Immigration and Asylum Appeals (Fees)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Jonathan Djanogly): This Government believe strongly in the values of responsibility, freedom and fairness. It is these values which inform all our judgments as we face up to the exceptionally tough fiscal situation we have inherited, and it is with these values in mind that I am launching a consultation on the mechanisms for introducing fees to the immigration and asylum appeals system.

I believe that it is reasonable to ask non-UK citizens appealing against some categories of immigration and asylum decisions to contribute to the costs of the administration of that appeal, where they are able to. This is particularly the case given that some two thirds of appeal cases are declined each year.

The current situation is that the Tribunals Service Immigration and Asylum system (TSIA) demands no appeal fee. Costs are met by the Ministry of Justice through funds provided by the UK taxpayer and in part from fees levied on visa applicants by UKBA.

For this reason I am today launching a public consultation on the mechanisms for introducing fee charges as I have outlined here. The consultation will be available from today on the Ministry of Justice's website and will run for 12 weeks, concluding on 21 January 2011.

I welcome feedback from all interested parties.

This Department is currently undertaking an internal review of legal aid and will be seeking views on reform shortly. If the proposals taken forward in the future, as a result of that consultation, affect the availability of legal aid in immigration appeals and consequently our assumptions about the impact of charging appeal fees to appellants of limited means, we will consult again as necessary on an alternative remissions and exemptions policy in respect of the fees to ensure that access to justice in immigration appeals is appropriately maintained.

Copies of the consultation paper will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses, the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

Court Fees (Public Law Family Proceedings)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Jonathan Djanogly): Following the recommendation by Francis Plowden in his "Review of Court Fees in Child Care Proceedings" on 15 March 2010, Jack Straw, the former Secretary of State for Justice, announced that the court fees charged to local authorities for care and supervision proceedings would be abolished from April 2011. I have carefully considered the decision of the former Secretary of State and believe that there is no justification that these fees should be abolished and as such they will remain.

Protecting vulnerable children is paramount and I do not believe that continuing to charge these court fees will place vulnerable children at risk. Local authorities have a statutory duty to investigate instances when they suspect a child is suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm and it would be unlawful for local authorities to consider financial considerations when deciding whether to do so. There is little, if any, empirical evidence to suggest that fees are a deterrent to local authorities commencing care and supervision proceedings. Indeed, since 2008 current figures show a general rise in applications being issued.

Francis Plowden's review found that resource issues could play a part in determining whether proceedings were initiated, however, he only believed this occurred "at the margins". He confirmed that this conclusion was based on anecdotal evidence alone and also stated that it was unlikely that children have been knowingly left at unavoidable risk by local authorities.

The fundamental principles in setting court fees at levels that reflect the cost of the service being provided are now more important than ever in the drive to ensure all Departments are transparent and accountable for the money spent on public services. Specifically, fee charging:

improves decision-making and accountability by providing greater transparency of the true cost and benefits of the services provided by both charging and paying authority.

promotes the efficient allocation of resources enabling authorities to identify particular pressures. Local authorities can then ensure sufficient funding is made available from their overall resources to pay court fees and other necessary expenditure in pursuant of their statutory obligations.

The cost of keeping these fees has been considered and built in as appropriate to the spending review settlements 2010 for those Departments affected—the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Welsh Assembly Government.

Furthermore, in light of the work currently being undertaken by the Family Justice Review Panel it would be premature to remove the fees for care and supervision proceedings. The review panel is looking at options for reform in both public law and private law cases. The review is due to publish its final report in autumn 2011 and I will review the fees for care and supervision proceedings following these findings and any proposals that seek to change the way in which these cases are dealt with by the courts.

WALES

National Assembly for Wales (Referendum on Law-making Powers)

The Secretary of State for Wales (Mrs Cheryl Gillan): The National Assembly for Wales passed a resolution on 9 February 2010 calling for a referendum under the terms of the Government of Wales Act 2006. The First Minister notified my predecessor of this resolution on 17 February 2010.

I am today laying copies of the National Assembly for Wales Referendum (Assembly Act Provisions) (Referendum Question, Date of Referendum Etc.) Order 2010, the National Assembly for Wales Referendum (Assembly Act Provisions) (Limit on Referendum Expenses Etc.) Order 2010, and the National Assembly for Wales (Legislative Competence) (Amendment of Schedule 7 to the Government of Wales Act 2006) Order 2010.

I have also placed in the Library of both Houses a copy of the Electoral Commission's report of its views on the proposed question in the referendum on law-making powers of the National Assembly for Wales. This report was published on 2 September 2010, and the full report and a summary are available on the commission's website at www.electoralcommission.org.uk.

The draft referendum order contains the bulk of the provision relating to the running of the referendum. It specifies the date of the referendum (article 3) and the referendum question and preceding statement (article 4).

I can confirm that the referendum will be held on 3 March 2011 subject to approval by Parliament, the National Assembly for Wales and approval by Her Majesty the Queen in Council.

With regard to the referendum question which will appear in English and Welsh on the ballot paper, I had a statutory duty to consult the Electoral Commission on the question that is included in the draft referendum order. I referred a question proposed by the Wales Office Referendum Project Board to the Electoral Commission on 23 June 2010. The commission conducted a thorough assessment of the question and its preceding statement, including carrying out public opinion research, gathering views from interested parties and seeking advice from experts on plain language and accessibility in English and Welsh. Its findings and recommendations are contained in the report published on 2 September 2010, referred to above.

I have already welcomed the report which made clear that it is a far from easy matter to draft a question for this referendum. During the testing process, the commission discovered that two factors in particular contribute to making it a difficult task: the complexity of the subject matter of the referendum, and the generally low level of public awareness and understanding of issues and terminology relating to it.

However, with the benefit of the public opinion research and consultation that the Electoral Commission undertook to assess the intelligibility of the proposed question, they were able to suggest a question and preceding statement that would address, as far as possible, the issues they had discovered in terms of complexity and low levels of awareness. I discussed the commission's report, its findings and recommendations with the First Minister and the Deputy First Minister and we agreed to accept the commission's recommended revision of the question and its preamble which is as follows:

The National Assembly for Wales: what happens at the moment;

The Assembly has powers to make laws on 20 subject areas, such as:

agriculture
education
the environment
health
housing
local government

In each subject area, the Assembly can make laws on some matters, but not others. To make laws on any of these other matters, the Assembly must ask the UK Parliament for its agreement. The UK Parliament then decides each time whether or not the Assembly can make these laws.

The Assembly cannot make laws on subject areas such as defence, tax or welfare benefits, whatever the result of this vote.

Question;

Do you want the Assembly now to be able to make laws on all matters in the 20 subject areas it has powers for?

If most voters vote "yes"

The Assembly will be able to make laws on all matters in the 20 subject areas it has powers for, without needing the UK Parliament's agreement.

If most voters vote "no"

What happens at the moment will continue.

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru: yr hyn sy'n digwydd ar hyn o bryd;

Mae gan y Cynulliad bwerau i lunio deddfau mewn 20 maes pwnc, megis:

amaethyddiaeth

addysg

yr amgylchedd

iechyd

tai

llywodraeth leol

Mae'r Cynulliad yn gallu llunio deddfau ar rai materion ym mhob maes pwnc ond nid ar faterion eraill. Er mwyn llunio deddfau ar unrhywun o'r materion eraill hyn, mae'n rhaid i'r Cynulliad ofyn am gytundeb Senedd y DU. Yna, mae Senedd y DU yn penderfynu bob tro a gaiff y Cynulliad lunio'r deddfau hyn neu beidio.

Ni all y Cynulliad lunio deddfau mewn meysydd pwnc fel amddiffyn, trethi neu fudd-daliadau lles, beth bynnag fo canlyniad y bleidlais hon.

Cwestiwn;

A ydych yn dymuno i'r Cynulliad allu llunio deddfau ar bob mater yn yr 20 maes pwnc y mae ganddo bwerau ynddynt?

Os bydd y rhan fwyaf o bleidleiswyr yn pleidleisio "ydw"

Bydd y Cynulliad yn gallu llunio deddfau ar bob mater yn yr 20 maes pwnc y mae ganddo bwerau ynddynt, heb orfod cael cytundeb Senedd y DU.

Os bydd y rhan fwyaf o bleidleiswyr yn pleidleisio "nac ydw"

Bydd yr hyn sy'n digwydd ar hyn o bryd yn parhau.

Written Ministerial Statements

Friday 22 October 2010

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

General Affairs and Foreign Affairs Councils Agenda (25 October)

The Minister for Europe (Mr David Lidington): The Foreign Affairs Council and General Affairs Council will meet in Luxembourg on 25 October. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs will attend the Foreign Affairs Council. I will attend the General Affairs Council.

GENERAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL

EU Summits with Third Countries

The Foreign Minister of Belgium (which holds the rotating EU presidency) will chair the GAC. The Council President Herman Van Rompuy will host a dinner the previous evening, at which he intends to focus on EU summits with third countries. Drawing on the experience of the recent summit with China, he will invite Ministers to look ahead to summits with the US, Ukraine and Russia later this year. The Government believe that the EU needs to focus these summits on a few key priorities, including advancing the EU's trade relationships. This issue will be discussed further at the following day's FAC (see below).

October European Council

Ministers will look ahead to the October European Council, which takes place in Brussels on 28-29 October and will be attended by the Prime Minister. The Council agenda includes economic governance, the Single Market Act, climate change, the Seoul G20 summit, and the EU-US summit. There may also be discussions on the EU-Russia summit, Pakistan (see below) and the EU budget review.

Serbia

Ministers will debate whether to take the next step on Serbia's EU membership application. The Government support doing so, by referring Serbia's application to the Commission for an assessment of its readiness to begin membership talks (an "avis").

September European Council

Ministers will consider follow-up to the September Council. The key UK interest here is on Pakistan. The September Council invited the Commission to present in October a proposal for "immediate and time-limited reduction of duties on key imports from Pakistan, in conformity with WTO rules". This would be part of an ambitious trade and development package for Pakistan. The Government support quick passage of the trade proposal adopted by the Commission on 7 October, providing Pakistan with significant trade concessions until 2014.

European External Action Service (EEAS)

The compromise texts for the Amending Staff and Financial Regulations for the EEAS have been agreed and should be adopted by November. Member states may take the opportunity of the GAC to congratulate the presidency and Baroness Ashton for their work in completing the procedures necessary to get the EEAS up and running. It is unlikely that there will be substantial discussion. We will stress the importance of budget neutrality and the need for progress on efficiency savings. We will also emphasise the need for recruitment to be meritocratic, and for the EEAS to support member states' foreign policy objectives, complementing rather than replacing national diplomatic services.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS COUNCIL

EU Summits with Third Countries

Baroness Ashton will chair the FAC. Following the GAC discussion on EU third country summits (see above), we expect the FAC to focus on specific objectives for the US, Ukraine and Russia summits. The Government would like to see an agreement on the importance of support to Pakistan and a revitalised Transatlantic Economic Council with the US; a reaffirmation of the importance of the EU-Ukraine free trade agreement; and a push on Russian WTO accession with a view to finalising an ambitious EU-Russia New Agreement with trade provisions.

Cuba

Discussion on Cuba was deferred from the June FAC, to allow time for Cuba to make progress on an anticipated release of political prisoners. The EU will discuss how to respond to these recent developments in Cuba. The Government recognise that some progress has been made on prisoner releases, and believe that any EU response should be measured, and aimed at encouraging further progress.

Middle East Peace Process

Baroness Ashton will update Ministers on her recent visit to the region. Ministers will discuss developments in the latest talks and what the EU can do to support progress. The Government believe that the EU has a role to play, in supporting US-led efforts to broker peace in the region.

Sahel

Ministers will discuss Sahel on the basis of a recent joint paper by the Commission and the General Secretariat of the Council on security and development issues in that region. The discussion is likely to highlight increasing concerns about security in the Sahel and the importance of the EU's political, security and development engagement.

Union for the Mediterranean

There will be a discussion of proposals from Baroness Ashton for a one-year transitional arrangement for the EU co-presidency of the Union for the Mediterranean. The Government have concerns regarding this proposal, including around the basis on which the Commission would represent the EU at this intergovernmental meeting. We would like a long-term solution to be found on a legal basis that is acceptable to all member states, and which respects national sovereignty.

The European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP)

We expect a brief discussion on the Commission's consultation exercise on the ENP with member states and partner countries. The Government believe that the ENP needs to be more ambitious, with access to EU markets linked to demonstrable progress by partners on economic and political reforms. The application of this conditionality should be the basis of the EU's engagement.

Georgia

We expect a short stocktake of bilateral EU-Georgia relations, following recent Georgian elections. Ministers may cover the EU's role in continuing efforts to foster regional conflict resolution, and Georgia-Russia relations.

EU-UN

Although not currently on the FAC agenda, some member states may raise the EU's status at the UN following last month's "no action" motion in the General Assembly.

NATO-EU

Following the NATO Defence and Foreign Ministers' meeting of 14 October, there is the possibility of a FAC discussion on NATO-EU co-operation.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Vetting and Barring Scheme

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May): I announced on 15 June that further implementation of the Vetting and Barring Scheme would be halted pending a review of the scheme. Together with my right hon. Friends the Secretaries of State for Education and for Health, I am today announcing the terms of reference for this review which we have collectively agreed.

The review will be thorough and consider afresh the principles and objectives of the scheme and recommend what, if any, scheme is now needed. The review will be developed by officials working jointly across our three Departments and recommendations are expected early in the new year.

The protection of children and vulnerable adults must be paramount. But we must also ensure that arrangements are proportionate and support a trusting, caring society where well-meaning people are encouraged rather than deterred.

In parallel, a review of the criminal records regime will take place, led by the independent Government Adviser for Criminality Information Management, Mrs Sunita Mason. This will be undertaken in two phases and will report firstly on employment vetting systems which involve the Criminal Records Bureau, followed by a report on the broader regime.

The terms of reference for these are below.

Vetting and Barring Scheme Remodelling: Terms of Reference

In order to meet the coalition's commitment to scale back the vetting and barring regime to common-sense levels, the review will:

Consider the fundamental principles and objectives behind the vetting and barring regime, including:

Evaluating the scope of the scheme's coverage;

The most appropriate function, role and structures of any relevant safeguarding bodies and appropriate governance arrangements;

Recommending what, if any, scheme is needed now; taking into account how to raise awareness and understanding of risk and responsibility for safeguarding in society more generally.

Criminal Records Review: Terms of Reference

The Criminal Records Review will examine whether the criminal records regime strikes the right balance between respecting civil liberties and protecting the public. It is expected to make proposals to scale back the use of systems involving criminal records to common-sense levels. The review will include consideration of the following issues:

In phase 1:

(i) Could the balance between civil liberties and public protection be improved by scaling back the employment vetting systems which involve the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB)?

(ii) Where Ministers decide such systems are necessary, could they be made more proportionate and less burdensome?

(iii) Should police intelligence form part of CRB disclosures?

In phase 2:

1. How should the content of a "criminal record" be defined?
2. Where should criminal records be kept and who should be responsible for managing them?
3. Who should have access to criminal records databases, for what purposes and subject to what controls and checks? To what extent should police intelligence be disclosed?
4. What capacity should individuals have to access, challenge and correct their own criminal records?
5. Could the administration of criminal records be made more straightforward, efficient and cost-effective?
6. Could guidance and information on the operation of the criminal records regime be improved?
7. How effective is the integration of overseas data into the criminal records regime?

JUSTICE

Dr David Kelly

The Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Kenneth Clarke): I have today placed copies of the post-mortem examination report and the toxicology report relating to the death of Dr David Kelly in July 2003 in the Libraries of both Houses and on the Ministry of Justice website at: http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/kelly-pm-toxicology-reports.htm

I am publishing these reports in the interests of maintaining public confidence in the inquiry into how Dr Kelly came by his death.

While I firmly believe that the publication of these documents is in the public interest, I am mindful that the contents may be distressing. I hope that the privacy of Dr Kelly's family will be respected at this difficult time.

TRANSPORT

EU Transport Council (15 October)

The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr Philip Hammond): The first Transport Council of the Belgian presidency was held in Luxembourg on 15 October. The United Kingdom was represented by the Deputy Permanent Representative.

The Council reached a political agreement on the directive amending Directive 1999/62 on charging of heavy goods vehicles (the Eurovignette directive). The political agreement was acceptable to the UK.

Neither the existing directive nor the proposed amendment require the use of tolls or user charges but where member states choose to apply them they must respect the rules. The presidency had tabled a compromise proposal, the main elements of which were: to remove all requirements for mandatory hypothecation of revenues to transport projects, to remove the possibility of adding a supplement for congestion, while allowing significant variation of charges within the overall revenue limit; and to allow member states the choice not to apply tolls and charges to lorries below 12 tonnes.

Further modifications made by the presidency at the Council, included provision that the cleanest vehicles would be exempt from any external cost charges for four years after dates of application; and that EURO V and EURO VI standard vehicles would have a zero charge for air pollution until the end of 2013 and 2017 respectively; on the key issues for the UK (mandatory hypothecation and inclusion of vehicles under 12 tonnes) the text was acceptable.

The UK and Sweden entered a minutes statement, stating that in our view the directive should have been taken on a fiscal legal base.

The Council adopted a mandate authorising the Commission to open negotiations with Brazil on a comprehensive air transport agreement, with the aim of opening up traffic rights between the EU and Brazil. The UK supports the opening of negotiations.

There was an exchange of views on strategy and the future of transport 2010-2020, in advance of publication of the European Commission's White Paper on transport policy, expected in December or January.

In the debate, member states supported the need to develop a more sustainable transport network. There was wide support for a financial framework to support infrastructure developments and intelligent transport technology (ITS) implementation, although some member states pointed out that the EU must not undermine domestic efforts to cut deficits. The UK highlighted the need to focus on areas with proven EU added value and ensure long-term fiscal stability. Major EU projects such as SESAR and Galileo should be completed on time and budget. Long-term priorities should be the full liberalisation of the single market, transport safety and security, recognising trade opportunities, and moving to a low-carbon economy.

Under AOB, the Commission presented a draft Council decision on the public regulated service of the Galileo satellite navigation programme. This should be ready to put to the Council early next year.

The Commission also presented a proposal for a recast of the rail liberalisation package, on which discussions in the working group have already started.

England's Transport System in Winter

The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr Philip Hammond): On 26 July 2010 I responded to the interim findings of the independent review panel examining the resilience of England's transport systems in winter. The panel are publishing their final report today. I would like to thank David Quarmby CBE (chair) and his fellow panel members Brian Smith and Chris Green, for their further thoughtful analysis and recommendations. Copies of the review have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

As today's report notes, much action has already been taken by local and national highway authorities, salt suppliers, Government and others to help keep our road network moving in the event of snow and ice this winter. But as the previous two winters have shown, we cannot be complacent.

Following July's interim report, I immediately instructed the Highways Agency to build up a national strategic salt supply of last resort. I am pleased to report that the Highways Agency has made arrangements for the import of 250,000 tonnes of salt which is expected to start arriving this month. I am in full agreement with the panel's view that this should be considered as a short-term reaction to current exceptional circumstances following two successive severe winters.

I therefore welcome the recommendations to improve resilience in salt supply in the longer term through: greater efficiencies in salt utilisation; increased throughput flexibility by suppliers; a new recommended standard of 12 days (48 runs) pre-season stockholding by local highway authorities; and regular monitoring of the national stock position. I urge all parties to take forward the recommendations that relate to them.

The Department for Transport has already been monitoring the national salt stock position in the run up to winter, in order to help highway authorities and suppliers to make better informed decisions. Working with the UK Roads Liaison Group the Department has also commissioned the production of technical guidance for local highway authorities on standards and methods to reduce the utilisation of salt without compromising effectiveness. This guidance, which will be available from the end of this month, will help to ensure that salt is spread at appropriate and effective levels, but not over-spread, thereby helping to conserve stock as well as reducing costs to local highway authorities. Today's independent report also highlights the economic and social costs of winter disruption, which highway authorities and others will wish to consider when making their future local investment decisions.

I note the review panel's conclusion that the rail industry had learnt valuable lessons from the winter of 2008-09 and overall coped well with the severe weather in 2009-10. I agree that the industry can improve performance further still by considering the additional measures around emergency timetables, technical improvements, and ensuring that the industry works closely with local highway authorities regarding responsibilities for de-icing key areas.

The report notes that the aviation industry generally anticipates and manages the effects of severe weather to a very high standard of resilience and is already pursuing measures, including additional resilience around the supply of de-icing materials. I welcome the recommendation that the Civil Aviation Authority should consider improving the availability of performance information for passengers and the market.

Across all modes of travel, the report acknowledges the importance of communications in extreme weather for the travelling public. I agree with the panel that those delivering transport services should continue to look to the opportunities that advances in technology may provide to improve communications with their customers.

Finally, in response to public concerns about the fear of litigation and following a recommendation in the panel's interim report, the Government are today publishing brief guidance for households and traders who wish to clear snow and ice from paths in front of their property, pavements and other public spaces. I hope that this will empower those who wish to act in a neighbourly way.

WALES

Budget Responsibility and National Audit Bill

The Secretary of State for Wales (Mrs Cheryl Gillan): I am pleased to inform the House that the explanatory memorandum explaining the Government's proposal for a framework power in the Budget Responsibility and National Audit Bill are available in the Vote Office, Library and the Printed Paper Office, and on the Wales Office website: (www.walesoffice.gov.uk).

Petitions

Monday 11 October 2010

OBSERVATIONS

HOME DEPARTMENT

Human Trafficking

The Petition of the constituents of Manchester Withington and others,

Declares that the petitioners believe that the continuing and increasing incidence of human trafficking into the UK and across the world is a disturbing situation that brings misery to many adults and children across the globe; notes that the petitioners believe human trafficking is a stain on the moral values of the UK; and notes that the petitioners support the "STOP THE TRAFFIK" campaign.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to take all possible steps to put an end to human trafficking.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr John Leech, Official Report,* 27 July 2010; Vol. 514; c. 973.]

[P000855]

Observations from the Secretary of State for the Home Department:

Human trafficking is a brutal form of organised crime where people are treated as commodities and exploited for criminal gain. Home Office research suggests that in 2009 there were up to 2,600 victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation in England and Wales.

The UK takes a comprehensive approach to combating trafficking, combining a robust approach to enforcement and prosecutions with arrangements to identify and support victims of trafficking. This is in line with the UK's international commitments, chiefly under the UN Convention Against Transnational Organised Crime (and in particular the Palermo Protocol) and the Council of Europe Convention on Trafficking Against Human Beings.

The UK works to prevent trafficking in many ways. We work to understand the nature and scale of the problem through estimates of trafficking for sexual exploitation and a scoping study on labour trafficking; by reducing demand at home, by raising awareness and reducing demand upstream through international development programmes.

A range of UK enforcement agencies help to combat trafficking. The Serious Organised Crime Agency gathers intelligence and deploys specialist resources, co-ordinates programmes and activities across UK law enforcement agencies, and leads on upstream enforcement activities in key source and transit countries, in conjunction with overseas law enforcement agencies. The UK Border Agency also plays a crucial role in tackling trafficking through gathering intelligence, border protection (at home and overseas) and taking enforcement action against employers who may be using trafficked labour. The UK Human Trafficking Centre (now part of SOCA but retaining its own role and identity) is a central point of co-ordination for intelligence, analysis and operational activities around human trafficking. All 55 Police Forces have a Senior Investigator trained in human trafficking, and all new police officers get training on human trafficking.

Victim care is central to the UK's approach to combating trafficking. The aim is to ensure that all victims receive the right support and protection. We have established a National Referral Mechanism to improve identification and protection of trafficking victims, which we are currently reviewing to ensure its effectiveness. Identified victims of trafficking are provided with specialist support and accommodation to enable them to recover from their ordeal, including accommodation, advocacy, counselling, legal advice, interpretative services and reintegration assistance if they return home.

We view the trafficking of children as a very serious offence and acknowledge that where children are found to be trafficked, their safety and welfare needs are urgently addressed. All trafficked children are entitled to the same protection as UK nationals and the primary responsibility for safeguarding children falls to local authorities.

The Government are committed to creating a National Crime Agency, which will help combat organised crime, including trafficking, more effectively.

TRANSPORT

Bromsgrove Railway Station

The Petition of the people of Bromsgrove

Declares that the petitioners, whilst recognising the current pressure on public finances, believe that the cost to the public purse of a new railway station in Bromsgrove would be more than offset by the resulting economic and environmental benefits for both Bromsgrove and the wider region; and notes that there is uncertainty about the availability of Government funding for this project.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Transport to confirm that Government funding for this vital infrastructural upgrade will go ahead.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Sajid Javid, Official Report,* 13 September 2010; Vol. 515, c. 710.]

[P000858]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Transport, received 28 September 2010:

I am aware that the growth in demand for rail travel from Bromsgrove means that the existing station does not have platforms long enough to accommodate the longer trains expected to be needed to cope with the number of people expected to use the services which call there.

The preferred option to address this issue proposed by Worcestershire County Council is to build a new station to the south of the existing station. This would increase the amount of car parking available to rail users and provide better interchange with other forms of transport than would be possible at the existing site.

This solution is supported by other rail industry partners and it would complement the proposal to electrify the railway line from Barnt Green to Longbridge and extend "cross city" services to and from Birmingham and beyond, to terminate at Bromsgrove rather than Longbridge.

The West Midlands Region had proposed to contribute £5 million from its Regional Funding Allocation from Government towards this project. In common with other schemes to be funded through this mechanism, consideration of this scheme has been suspended pending the outcome of the Comprehensive Spending Review. This has been necessary given the Government's priority of tackling the budget deficit.

After the Spending Review and the consequent allocation of funds to local authorities and other bodies by the Government, Worcestershire County Council and other potential funding partners will need to consider whether this project remains a priority for funding from capital budgets.

In reaching a decision, funders will wish to take account of the economic and environmental benefits a new station would bring to the area.

Petition

Tuesday 12 October 2010

OBSERVATIONS

TRANSPORT

Dartford Crossing

The Petition of residents of North Kent

Declares that the petitioners believe that the Dartford Crossing should not be sold or privatised.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to ensure that the Dartford Crossing remains in public ownership.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Gareth Johnson, Official Report,* 13 September 2010; Vol. 515, c. 711.]

[P000859]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Transport:

The Government have not yet made any decisions regarding the future ownership of the Dartford Crossing.

I understand that several key factors need to be considered in the decision-making process including whether a new concession structure would provide better value for the taxpayer, the flexibility needed to provide possible additional crossing capacity in the future, and how user charging policies would be affected.

The Budget statement (22 June), confirmed that decisions will be made on the possibility of providing future additional crossing capacity and the possibilities for letting out a concession at the conclusion of the spending review.

Petition

Tuesday 19 October 2010

OBSERVATIONS

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Proposed Eviction (Dale Farm and Hovefields, Essex)

The Petition of families at Dale Farm and Hovefields to be evicted, their supporters and others,

Declares that roughly 100 families at Dale Farm and Hovefields are to be evicted by Basildon Council in Essex at a cost of over £2 million; that most of the families to be evicted by Basildon Council have lived on their own land for about seven years, and they include invalids who will be separated from their Carers and school children, some of whom have Special Needs, who on the roadside will be deprived of their Human Right to Education; that this mass eviction will be carried out by a firm of Bailiffs whose brutality was condemned by the High Court, and therefore breaks the solemn signed undertaking by Basildon Council to the High Court, to only use Bailiffs of previous good conduct;

Further declares that the Petitioners believe Basildon Council is also breaking the terms and the purpose of sections 225 and 226 of the 2004 Housing Act, which say that every local housing authority must "prepare a strategy" to meet the "accommodation needs" of the "gypsies and travellers residing in or resorting to their area", whilst in fact Basildon Council says that any new pitches which it allows will not be reserved for local Travellers who are already residing in the area; that this contradicts their statement that the new pitches will be allocated by their housing policy as the 1996 Housing Act normally requires a "local connection"; that it also means that the local Travellers may have to live by the roadside although the 2004 Housing Act promised them legal pitches by 2011.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons debate this matter; and urge the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government: to exercise his powers under s225 and 226 of the 2004 Housing Act and s8 of the 1985 Housing Act (c. 68) to see that all local authorities, including Basildon, find enough affordable pitches for all their local Travellers; to urge all local authorities to show humanity by following the decision of the Court of Appeal in 2008 in the Wychavon case, by not evicting Travellers, especially those on their own land, until an alternative affordable site is available for them, as was intended by the 2004 Housing Act to happen by 2011; to ask local authorities to follow the High Court decisions v Basildon in 2000 and 2004 that even normal school children should not be evicted; to ask Basildon to follow the High Court in the Margaret Price case by not offering Homeless Travellers only bricks and mortar, but affordable pitches; and to ask Basildon not to evict the sick, or the elderly or break its undertaking to the High Court not to use Bailiffs of bad conduct.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Julie Morgan, Official Report,* 30 March 2010; Vol. 508, c. 787.]

[P000803]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government:

The Courts have found that Basildon District Council is within its rights to evict travellers from unauthorised pitches at Dale Farm and Hovefields. The process of eviction is a matter for Basildon District Council.

The Government expect those carrying out the eviction to do so responsibly, calmly and lawfully, and for the Council to meet its responsibility to provide appropriate services for those who need them within its jurisdiction.

The Government understand that Basildon District Council has been working closely with the police, emergency services, local education authority, health authorities and social services to ensure that the likely impact of eviction on children, vulnerable adults, those with health conditions and other specific needs is taken into account.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 11 October 2010

WALES

Departmental Contracts

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what the monetary value is of contracts her Department has awarded to each *(a)* management consultancy and *(b)* IT company since 7 May 2010. [16175]

Mr David Jones: Nil.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if her Department will take steps to assess the effects on *(a)* equality of incomes, *(b)* equality of assets and *(c)* equality of access to services of measures relating to its expenditure under consideration in the Spending Review. [16346]

Mr David Jones: The Wales Office will ensure the relevant equality considerations are taken in to account in the context of expenditure under consideration in the Spending Review, in compliance with our obligations under the Sex Discrimination Act 1975, the Race Relations Act 1976, and the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.

Ryder Cup

Mr David: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether officials of her Department plan to attend the 2010 Ryder Cup. [15908]

Mr David Jones: No Wales Office officials attended the 2010 Ryder Cup in an official capacity.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Billing

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the average cost to his Department was of processing the payment of an invoice in the latest period for which figures are available; and what proportion of invoices settled in that period his Department paid *(a)* electronically and *(b)* by cheque. [16170]

Mr Paterson: The latest period for which information is available for the Department as currently configured is from 12 April 2010, when devolution to the Northern Ireland Assembly was completed, to 31 August 2010.

The proportion of invoices paid electronically during this period was 93.1% and 6.9% by cheque.

Departmental Contracts

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the monetary value is of contracts his Department has awarded to each *(a)* management consultancy and *(b)* IT company since 7 May 2010. [16180]

Mr Paterson: Nil.

Departmental Empty Buildings

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the estimated monetary value is of each vacant *(a)* building and *(b)* parcel of land owned by his Department in each region. [16245]

Mr Paterson: The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) does not own any vacant buildings or parcels of land.

Departmental Expenditure

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if his Department will take steps to assess the effects on *(a)* equality of incomes, *(b)* equality of assets and *(c)* equality of access to services of measures relating to its expenditure under consideration in the Spending Review. [16349]

Mr Paterson: The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) will ensure the relevant equality considerations are taken into account in the context of expenditure under consideration in the spending review, in compliance with our obligations under the Sex Discrimination Act 1975, the Race Relations Act 1976, and the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.

Departmental Press

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department spent on newspapers, periodicals and trade profession magazines in each year since 1997. [16229]

Mr Paterson: Comparable figures for the Department as it is now configured are not available for the years preceding the completion of devolution on 12 April 2010.

In the period since 12 April 2010, the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) has spent £6,346 on newspapers, periodicals and trade profession magazines.

Departmental Secondment

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many staff his Department has appointed on secondment since 7 May 2010; and from what organisation each such member of staff has been seconded. [16265]

Mr Paterson: Since 7 May 2010 my Department has appointed one member of staff on secondment from the Department of Finance and Personnel in Northern Ireland.

Intelligence Services

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what provisions of the St. Andrews Agreement govern the transfer of intelligence material to the Northern Ireland Executive. [15666]

Mr Paterson: Where issues arise within the transferred policing and justice field which have a national security dimension or which touch on national security-related issues, arrangements are in place for consultation and the sharing of information between the Secretary of State and the Minister of Justice. This includes regular meetings at ministerial level, and ad hoc information exchange as necessary. Insofar as it touched on the matter, the St Andrews Agreement dealt primarily with the transfer of primacy, from the PSNI to the Security Service, for the handling of national security intelligence in Northern Ireland.

Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the remit is of the funding review of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission; how the review will carry out its work; and if he will make a statement. [15634]

Mr Swire: I am not aware of any specific review of funding of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission (NIHRC). A review of management structures is underway—this is not being undertaken by Government but has been commissioned by the Commission independently. Details of the review can be found in letters deposited in the Library of the House (reference: DEP2010-1623). The Government-wide spending review affects the Human Rights Commission as it does all aspects of public spending. Correspondence between my department and the NIHRC on the subject of the spending review can also be found in the Library of the House (reference: DEP2010-1623).

Presbyterian Mutual Society

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent progress has been made towards a resolution for savers affected by the current situation of the Presbyterian Mutual Society. [15667]

Mr Paterson: I have been chairing regular meetings of the Ministerial Working Group, with the aim of finding a just and fair resolution for those PMS members who have been unable to access their investments since October 2008. In recent months we have made considerable progress, and we hope to be able to announce the way forward shortly.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Consultants

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland pursuant to the answer of 14 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 945W, on departmental consultants, whether research was commissioned by his Department into voters' perceptions following the Scottish Parliament elections in *(a)* 1999 and *(b)* 2003. [16133]

David Mundell: It is not normal practice for the Government to commission research into voters' perceptions following elections. Starting with the 2003 election, the Electoral Commission has had a statutory responsibility to report on the administration of Scottish Parliament elections and, as part of its fact finding role in connection with their reports, it commissions research into voters' perceptions.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland pursuant to the answer of 14 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 945W, on departmental consultants, what the terms of reference were of the research commissioned through Quadrant consultants into voters' perceptions following the 2007 Scottish Parliament elections; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the report of the research. [16143]

David Mundell: The objectives of the research were:

To obtain a quantitative evaluation of voters' responses to key questions on the overnight count and ballot paper design.

To develop a qualitative understanding of voters' reasoning behind their responses to the above issues.

To explore voters' personal experiences of elections both in 2007 and in previous years.

To make an assessment of the level of confidence voters currently have in the electoral system and the likely impact of the proposed changes/solutions on their confidence in the short and medium-term future.

To explore additional electoral issues, specifically:

Voters' experiences of the voting process, i.e. how easy do they find it?

Postal vs. personal voting.

Voters' experiences of their contact with electoral staff.

To what extent the different approaches for different types of elections make the process confusing.

Methods by which voting could be improved/made easier.

I have arranged for a copy of the research report to be placed in the House Library. The report has been available on the Scotland Office website since 24 June 2008.

Elections: Ballot Papers

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what testing has been undertaken on ballot paper designs for the Scottish Parliament elections scheduled for May next year. [16132]

David Mundell: The ballot papers for the 2011 Scottish Parliament election take account of the recommendations made by Ron Gould in his report on the May 2007 elections and the views expressed by voters who took part in the research undertaken by Quadrant Consultants on behalf of the Scotland Office during May and June 2008. They have been designed in accordance with the Electoral Commission's guidance on ballot paper design contained: "Making your mark: Good practice for designing voter materials: guidance for government policy-makers".

Employment

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland on what date he wrote to *(a)* the Scottish Government, *(b)* the Scottish Trades Union Congress and *(c)* the Confederation of British Industry to suggest that it participates in a second jobs summit. [15658]

Michael Moore: I hosted a roundtable meeting on employment and related matters with a group of key partners from the public, private and third sectors on 24 September. Organisations represented included the Scottish Government, the STUC, a range of business organisations, the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations, the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities, Scotland's Colleges, Enable Scotland, the Poverty Alliance, and employability providers from the private and social enterprise sectors.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many *(a)* public and *(b)* private sector jobs he expects to be (i) lost and (ii) created in Scotland during the course of the present Parliament. [15660]

Michael Moore: The independent Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) predicts that UK employment will rise by around 1.4 million over the next five years and that, although public sector employment is falling, in three years time it will be 150,000 higher than the OBR forecast based on the March 2010 budget. In Scotland, the Fraser of Allander Institute's most recent forecast shows economy-wide net growth of almost 15,000 jobs in 2011 and over 36,000 jobs in 2012. The Government are committed to tackling the country's record deficit, to allow for sustainable and balanced growth led by the private sector.

Ministers of Religion

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when he last discussed the Act of Settlement with *(a)* faith leaders in Scotland, *(b)* ministerial colleagues and *(c)* others. [16317]

Michael Moore: As the Minister for Political and Constitutional Reform explained in the Adjournment Debate on 1 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 1109, the Government have not ruled out any change to the Act of Settlement, but if we are to undertake change, we need to do it in a careful and thoughtful way. Where future change is considered, I will discuss this with my ministerial colleagues, faith leaders and others with an interest in this issue.

Public Expenditure

Mr Frank Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on (i) the Scottish budget since devolution and (ii) the draft Scottish budget for 2010-11. [16380]

Michael Moore: No recent research has been commissioned regarding the Scottish Budget since devolution nor on the draft Scottish Budget for 2010-11. The Scottish Government's Independent Budget Review Panel published their report in July and it showed that there has been an annually growing budget in the first 10 years of the Scottish Parliament. However, tackling the record budget deficit and achieving sustainable, balanced, private-sector-led economic growth are the Government's priorities for the duration of this Parliament. Tackling the deficit is unavoidable and while there will have to be cuts in order to restore health to the public finances, the forthcoming spending review will be a crucial stepping stone on the way to recovery.

Unemployment

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what assessment he has made of the reasons for which the rate of worklessness in Scotland is rising at a faster rate than the equivalent figure across the UK. [15640]

Michael Moore: The figures for worklessness for the three months to June 2010 published by the Office for National Statistics in September highlight the scale of the problem inherited by the Government. They demonstrate very clearly that the system supported by previous Governments is failing families in our country. That is why the Government are moving forward with a work programme which will offer personalised support to people on a range of benefits to help lift them out of worklessness and into employment.

I discussed this at a roundtable meeting on employment, welfare and poverty I hosted on 24 September with a group of key partners from the public, private and third sectors. At that event, Dr Jim McCormick, Scotland Adviser to the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, shared the findings of their 'Monitoring poverty and social exclusion in Scotland 2010' report which was published on 22 September 2010.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Scottish Trades Union Congress, *(b)* the Confederation of British Industry, *(c)* the Federation of Small Businesses and *(d)* the Scottish Chambers of Commerce on unemployment trends in Scotland. [15659]

Michael Moore: The economic problems that this Government have inherited and their impact on employment have been key topics of the meetings I have had with a range of organisations since I took office. On 24 September I hosted a roundtable meeting with key organisations from the public, private and third sectors to discuss unemployment and related matters. The STUC and a range of business organisations were in attendance. I will continue to engage with these and other organisations.

PRIME MINISTER

Palestinians

Ian Austin: To ask the Prime Minister whether he had discussions with the *(a)* Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and *(b)* Israeli government on his description of Gaza as a prison camp. [16105]

The Prime Minister: I have nothing further to add to the answer I gave on 6 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 1W.

Tony Blair

Mr Amess: To ask the Prime Minister whether Government facilities have been made available to Tony Blair since June 2007; and if he will make a statement. [15639]

The Prime Minister: As with all former Prime Ministers, Mr Blair is provided with access to Government resources as appropriate.

EDUCATION

Academies

20. **Andrew Stephenson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent progress his Department has made in implementing its academies programme. [16466]

Mr Gibb: The recent National Audit Office report confirms that many academies are performing impressively and the academies open the longest have shown significant and sustained improvement. We now have 322 academies open, 119 of which opened this autumn. This is record progress; it took four years for the first 27 academies to open.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many schools have asked to withdraw their name from the list of those which have expressed an interest in becoming an academy. [5676]

Mr Gibb: As of 9 September, around 180 schools have decided they no longer want to be registered as having an interest in converting to academy status. Schools may choose to express an interest or withdraw their interest at any time; they may also choose to re-register, so the numbers will change on an ongoing basis. At the last published update, registrations of interest had been received from 1,039 outstanding schools and 870 other schools. We will keep lists updated regularly on:

www.education.gov.uk/academies

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many expressions of interest in academy status his Department has received from schools in *(a)* South Northamptonshire constituency and *(b)* England. [7760]

Mr Gibb: As of 29 September 2010, 31 expressions of interest in academy status had been received from schools in South Northamptonshire. A total of 2,040 expressions of interest had been received from schools in England.

Esther McVey: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether Roman Catholic schools which become academies may retain selective admissions criteria. [11905]

Mr Gibb: All maintained schools and academies are required to adopt admission arrangements which comply with the School Admissions Code. Catholic maintained schools are all voluntary aided. This means that the governing body is the admission authority and can decide whether or not to adopt faith admission criteria. Academy trusts are the admission authorities for their schools which means that, on conversion, it will be able to maintain its current admission arrangements. So if an existing Catholic maintained school that selected by faith became an academy, it would be able to continue prioritising on the basis of faith if oversubscribed.

Any entirely new faith academies—where there is no existing maintained faith school—will be required to admit 50% of their intake without reference to faith when oversubscribed. This is in order to give a broad range of local pupils access to new academy provision and will not affect converting maintained schools, which will be able to retain their existing arrangements.

If a faith school that has converted to academy status wishes to change its admission arrangements, it will be required to consult locally in line with admissions law and the School Admissions Code.

Esther McVey: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether the articles of association of an Academy Trust operating a Catholic school allow *(a)* a majority of foundation governors to be appointed by a religious trusteeship and *(b)* the posts of headteacher, deputy headteacher and head of religious education to be reserved for practising Catholics. [11911]

Mr Gibb: The Academy Model Articles of Association provide for a structure which would allow those who are setting up the academy trust (for example the existing governing body of a converting Catholic school) to decide who should be the members of the academy trust. The members are in turn responsible for deciding who should appoint, and who should be, the governors of the academy trust. Where the school has an existing foundation—for example in the case of voluntary aided faith schools—we would expect that foundation to be the lead member of the new academy trust which could then appoint a majority of the governors. There is no impediment to the members of the academy trust agreeing that a majority of foundation governors be appointed by a religious trusteeship.

Similarly, section 124A of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 allows academies with a religious character to take faith into account in the appointment of its—teachers, including the posts of head teacher, deputy head teacher and head of religious education. This means that an academy designated as a Catholic school would have equivalent freedoms in this area to a voluntary aided school in the maintained sector.

Youth Facilities: Funding

21. **Stella Creasy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will bring forward proposals for long-term funding of youth facilities; and if he will make a statement. [16467]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education has not yet made a decision on funding for youth facilities beyond March 2011. As the hon. Lady will know the Government are undertaking a comprehensive spending review and Ministers will shortly announce their spending priorities.

Special Educational Needs

23. **John Howell.** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent progress his Department has made on its proposed Green Paper on children and young people with special educational needs. [16469]

Sarah Teather: I will publish a Green Paper later this year to look at a wide range of issues for children with special educational needs and disabilities. I have been meeting a range of people, including parents, teachers, local authorities, charities and other groups and considering the findings of recent reviews, including the most recent report from the Office for Standards in Education. A call for views was published on 10 September and closes on 15 October.

Academies: Catholicism

Esther McVey: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether Catholic schools which wish to achieve academy status may retain the right to select a proportion of pupils on the basis of their Catholic faith. [12496]

Mr Gibb: All maintained schools and academies are required to adopt admission arrangements which comply with the School Admissions Code. Schools must be designated a faith school in order to prioritise admissions on the basis of faith if oversubscribed. Catholic maintained schools are all voluntary aided. This means that the governing body is the admission authority and can decide whether or not to adopt faith admission criteria. Academy trusts are the admission authorities for their schools which means that, on conversion, it will be able to maintain its current admission arrangements. So if an existing Catholic maintained school that selected by faith became an academy, it would be able to continue prioritising on the basis of faith if oversubscribed.

Academies: Governing Bodies

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether new academy schools will be required to have *(a)* elected parent governors, *(b)* elected staff governors and *(c)* local authority nominated governors. [9106]

Mr Gibb: The academies governing body should include at least two parent governors and the principal. Academies are free to choose whether to have a staff governor or local authority governor.

Academies: Worcester

Mr Robin Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what expressions of interest in academy status his Department has received from primary schools *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in Worcester. [10448]

Mr Gibb: As at 29 September 2010, 910 primary schools nationally had registered an interest in academy status. We have received five registrations of interest from primary schools in the constituency of Worcester.

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) whether *(a)* Wandsworth and *(b)* other London boroughs will not receive Building Schools for the Future (BSF) funding as a consequence of being in later waves of the BSF programme; [8726]

(2) how much Building Schools for the Future funding was initially allocated to Wandsworth; and whether that funding will now be provided to the borough. [8727]

Mr Gibb: On 5 July, the Department announced that BSF projects that have reached financial close will continue, together with repeat projects which have outline business case approval prior to 1 January 2010. All projects that have not reached close of dialogue will stop with immediate effect. On 6 August, the Department announced that all sample schools would also go ahead. These criteria apply to Wandsworth, to all other London boroughs and to all authorities throughout England.

The London borough of Wandsworth's Building Schools for the Future project was allocated an indicative £333 million none of which has been spent to date. Further funding will not be allocated to the borough until the capital review has been completed.

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to make a decision in respect of Building Schools for the Future funding for *(a)* Wade Deacon and *(b)* The Grange School. [9409]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 20 July 2010]*: BSF projects in a local authority's initial BSF scheme are continuing where Financial Close has been reached for the scheme, as will projects subsequent to their area's initial scheme which have Outline Business Case approval prior to 1 January 2010.

On 6 August the Department announced that 33 sample school projects, including UCL academy in Camden, and 119 additional academy projects will proceed. The 44 academies at the most advanced stage in their capital planning with Partnerships for Schools will receive capital now. Capital allocations for the remaining 75 will be decided in the spending review.

Wade Deacon and The Grange School are among the 33 sample schools and have now been allocated capital.

Ed Balls: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the oral statement of 5 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 47-57, on education funding, when the final criteria to determine action to be taken on each *(a)* Building Schools for the Future project and *(b)* Academy application were decided; and what consultation took place with (i) local authorities and (ii) Partnerships for Schools on those matters before decisions were made. [10665]

Mr Gibb: *[holding answer 22 July 2010]*: The Secretary of State had wide-ranging discussions during May, June and July and took into account information from a range of sources in taking his decisions on Building Schools for the Future projects and Academies. The Secretary of State worked closely with Partnerships for Schools during this time, drawing on their strong working relationships with local authorities in the Building Schools for the Future programme.

James Wharton: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what representations he has received from Stockton on Tees Borough Council on school building projects; and if he will make a statement. [12261]

Mr Gibb: On 5 July the Secretary of State announced a review of all areas of DfE capital spending. Its purpose is to ensure that future capital investment represents good value for money and strongly supports the Government's ambitions to reduce the deficit, raise standards and tackle disadvantage. While he announced that the Building Schools for the Future programme is ending, this does not mean the end of capital investment by this Department.

The Secretary of State has received a letter from Councillor Mrs Ann McCoy, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People.

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what criteria his Department has used to decide which proposed projects should not received Building Schools for the Future funding. [14023]

Mr Gibb: BSF developments are being maintained for three groups of schools:

> those in a local authority area's initial BSF scheme where Financial Close has been reached;
>
> the first, or "sample", schools due to be taken forward in a local authority area where Financial Close has not been reached but where very significant work has been undertaken, to the point of appointing a preferred bidder at "close of dialogue"; and
>
> some schools with planned projects subsequent to their authority's initial scheme—projects with Outline Business Cases approved before 1 January 2010.

All other BSF funding has been stopped for schools.

Departmental Buildings

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the *(a)* name and *(b)* address is of each building (i) leased and (ii) owned by his Department; on what date his Department began occupying each such property; what the book value is of each such property; and if he will make a statement. [15635]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education occupies the following properties:

Property name	*Address*	*Tenure*	*Date occupied*	*Value (£)*
Sanctuary Buildings	Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3BT	Leasehold	11 November 1991	n/a
2 St Pauls Place	125 Norfolk Street, Sheffield, S12FL	Ground lease	28 June 2010	22,390,000
Castle View House	East Lane, Runcorn, WA7 2DB	Freehold	1 April 1993	7,500,000
Mowden Hall	Staindrop Road, Darlington, DL3 9BG	Freehold	18 March 1966	2,835,000
Nursery	Kenwood Park Road, Sheffield, S7 1NF	Freehold	20 September 2001	475,000

The nursery is run by the company Bright Horizons for use by the staff of Sheffield based Government Departments.

In addition, the Department has responsibility for the following lease commitments which were all former Training and Enterprise Council (TEC) properties with the exception of 200 Great Dover Street which was formerly an area office for the Manpower Services Commission.

Property name	*Address*	*Date occupied and lease term*	*Current status*
200 Great Dover Street	London, SE1 4WU	23 February 1987 to 22 June 2011	sub-let
Atlas House	St Georges Square, Bolton, BL1 2HB	25 March 1990 to 25 March 2015	vacant
Bayley House	St Georges Square, Bolton, BL1 2HB	25 June 1989 to 24 June 2014	Partial sub-let
Blenheim Court	Peppercorn Close, Peterborough, PE12DU	10 August 1990 to 9 August 2015	vacant
Brandon Court	Units E1-3, Leofric Business Park, Coventry, CV3 2TE	24 June 1990 to 23 June 2015	Partial sub-let
Enterprise House	Wobaston Road, Pendeford Business Park, Wolverhampton, WV9 5HA	6 April 1992 to 5 April 2017	sub-let
Manorgate House	2 Manorgate Road, Kingston on Thames, KT2 7AL	23 March 1990 to 22 March 2015	Partial sub-let
The Oaks	Clews Road, Redditch, B98 7ST	29 September 1990 to 28 September 2015	sub-let
Acorn Business Park	Unit 4, Moss Road, Grimsby, DN32 OLT	25 March 1990 to 24 March 2015	sub-let

All surplus space is marketed both through the Government Property Unit and commercially through our property agents, DTZ.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what *(a)* building and *(b)* refurbishment projects were undertaken by his Department in each of the last five years; and what the costs were of each such project. [15636]

Tim Loughton: There has been one refurbishment project in the last five years which was the refurbishment of Sanctuary Buildings our London headquarters. The costs were incurred from an estate rationalisation and maintenance programme that resulted in the Department vacating and disposing of one of its two HQ buildings and consolidating its occupation within a single building, Sanctuary Buildings. This has achieved ongoing annual savings of £13 million in running costs with a payback on the capital investment within 16 months.

	Expenditure (£)
2006/07	2,175,000
2007/08	6,827,036
2008/09	4,099,898
2009/10	3,585,353
2010/11	[1]

[1] No spend.

There was also a single building project undertaken at our new premises at 2 St Paul's Place, Sheffield. This was for the fit-out of the building prior to staff occupation and included mechanical and electrical installations, carpets and fittings, security and environmental controls. The project cost £4,160,893 and was undertaken between 2009/10 and 2010/11.

Departmental Communication

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what instructions have been issued by the private office of each Minister in his Department on the preparation of briefing, speeches and replies to official correspondence. [9661]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education ensures that guidance is issued to staff on the departmental intranet. The guidance sets out each Minister's preferences for briefing, speeches and replies to official correspondence. These are reviewed regularly to ensure that Ministers are able to fulfil their duties to Parliament and the public to the highest standards possible.

Departmental Internet

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its predecessor spent on search engine biasing with (i) Google and (ii) other search engines in each of the last five years. [10014]

Tim Loughton: The Department's expenditure on paid for search engine marketing, through the Central Office of Information, was £511,923 in 2008/09 and £811,132 in 2009/10.

To supply information for previous years and to separate expenditure for Google from that of other search engines would exceed the disproportionate cost threshold.

No money was spent on search engine biasing.

Departmental Manpower

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* press officers are employed by his Department at each Civil Service pay grade. [1271]

Michael Gove: The Department has two special advisors, one at pay band 1 and one at pay band 2.

The Department currently employs 21 full time equivalent press officers. A breakdown by grade is outlined in the following table.

Grade	*Number*
Information Officer	7
Senior Information Officer	8
Grade 7	4
Grade-6	1
Senior Civil Service	1

Departmental Official Hospitality

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department spent on hospitality for events hosted by each Minister in his Department in July 2010. [15148]

Tim Loughton: The Secretary of State and Ministers hosted two briefing events in July 2010 to meet approximately 50 stakeholders from across the education sector to outline policy priorities and to listen to their views. To keep costs to a minimum the events were hosted in the Department. The total cost was £465.15.

All expenditure is incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 5 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 1-2WS, on public spending control, under which budgetary headings he expects his Department to make savings of £1 billion in fiscal year 2010-11. [7516]

Tim Loughton: Work is still ongoing to identify the budget areas where the £1 billion reduction in end year flexibility (EYF) will be taken from, and will be working on the implications as part of our work on the spending review.

£156.5 million of savings have already been identified from capital budgets in the following areas:

	Saving (£ million)
Co-location projects—cancelling projects where progress has not been satisfactory or is not good value for money	24.0
School swimming—cancelling capital investment in school swimming pools due to low take-up of the offer	15.0
Eco-towns contribution—not funding pilot work on energy efficient schools in the CLG led eco-towns initiative	2.5
Harnessing Technology Grant—a further reduction to take this year's funding down to £100 million, allowing schools to reconfigure their broadband and IT infrastructure projects onto a more sustainable funding model	50.0
14 to 19 diplomas, SEN and disabilities—cutting allocations to the 76 LAs which were not included in early BSF waves and were therefore allocated £8 million each to support investment in SEN or diploma provision. Their allocations will be reduced by c £660,000	50.0
Social Work IT support—not proceeding with plans announced just before the election of a formulaic allocation to LAs to improve social work IT provision	15.0
Total	156.5

EYF is a mechanism whereby Departments may carry forward unspent departmental expenditure limit (DEL) provision into later financial years.

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education which single tenders have been authorised by his Department since his appointment. [15961]

Tim Loughton: A complete answer to this question could only be provided at disproportionate costs as my Department does not keep a central record of all single tender authorisations. However, we do have a central record of all single tender authorisations under the category of consultancy and I can tell the hon. Member that one single tender has been authorised. That was for Dame Clare Tickell's services as chair of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) review.

Free Schools

James Wharton: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what mechanism will be available to ensure the accountability of new free schools to *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* parents; and if he will make a statement. [11115]

Mr Gibb: We expect the vast majority of free schools to be funded via a funding agreement. As for academies, the funding agreement will set the terms and conditions under which the free school must operate and free schools will be held accountable by the Secretary of State for their performance. We will continue to evaluate the academies and free schools programme. During the passage of the Academies Act 2010 we also agreed that we would provide Parliament with regular reports on the progress and performance of the academies and free schools programme.

In line with other state-funded schools, free schools will be required to collect performance data, publish their results and be inspected by Ofsted. Parents with concerns will be able to request an Ofsted inspection.

James Wharton: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the number of free schools likely to be created under his Department's proposals in the next five years. [12260]

Mr Gibb: There has been a high level of interest in the free schools programme and the Department for Education is working with proposers to develop their ideas. Our intention is to be permissive, not prescriptive. The number of projects taken forward over the next five years will depend on the level of parental demand and the quality of proposals that come forward.

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many expressions of interest in establishing free schools the New Schools Network has passed on to his Department. [12511]

Mr Gibb: The point at which the Department receives formal notice of applications is when groups put in a proposal form. Many, though not all, of those groups will have received advice from the New Schools Network. However it is the proposers who choose to notify the DfE of their wish to set up a school when they feel they are prepared adequately, not the New Schools Network.

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has to bring forward draft regulations for the registration and monitoring of free schools; and if he will make a statement. [13080]

Mr Gibb: Free schools will be set up as academies under existing legislation and will be held to account in the same way as other academies.

Free Schools: North East

James Wharton: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many applications in respect of his Department's proposed free schools have been received from groups in the North East. [12259]

Mr Gibb: As at 27 September 2010 the Department has received two Free School proposals from groups in the North East region, both of which are within the Stockton local authority area.

GCSE

Mr Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of candidates achieved five or more GCSEs at grades A* to C including English and mathematics in each *(a)* selective, *(b)* partially selective and *(c)* comprehensive school in each local education authority in the most recent year for which figures are available. [12637]

Mr Gibb: The percentage of candidates achieving five or more GCSEs at grades A* to C including English and mathematics in 2009 is published for each individual school in each local authority and available on the departmental website. The admission basis in each maintained school is also given:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/performancetables/schools_09.shtml

Code descriptions for admission basis can be found in the Glossary and abbreviations page

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/performancetables/schools_09/glossary.shtml

Figures for all schools in 2009 are also available in a publication file that has been added to the House Libraries.

Local Education Partnerships: Skanska

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how much has been paid to the building contractor Skanska in each of the Local Education Partnerships (LEPs) in which Skanska is active in each year since LEPs were established; [5885]

(2) what assessment he has made of the cost-effectiveness of Local Education Partnerships; and if he will make a statement. [5886]

Mr Gibb: Skanksa have been appointed main contractor on two Local Education Partnerships (LEPs) schemes, Bristol and Essex. Partnership for Schools (PfS) does not hold information on how much money is paid to individual building contractors. The funding provided to the local authorities which in turn pay LEPs is as follows.

Since the creation of the Bristol LEP in Financial Year 2007-08 Bristol City Council has been paid the following amounts:

Capital grant for design and build schools

Financial year	*Capital grant (£ million)*
2007-08	3.6
2008-09	29.0
2009-10	85.7

Revenue support for PFI schemes

Financial year	*Revenue (£ million)*
2007-08	7.6
2008-09	12.1
2009-10	12.1

Local Education Partnerships are being reviewed as part of the wider review of schools capital.

New Schools Network

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what account the appointment of the New Schools Network took of the provisions of *(a)* the Public Contracts Regulations 2008 and *(b)* his Department's guidance on procurement; [13876]

(2) whether the exemption from procurement procedures applicable to single tendering was invoked in respect of the New Schools Network; [14015]

(3) what criteria he used when awarding the New Schools Network a contract; and whether the Compact Commissioning Guidance was taken into account. [14072]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 8 September 2010]:* On 18 June 2010 the Department agreed to enter into a £500,000 grant agreement with the New Schools Network (NSN) to provide support for groups wanting to find out more about setting-up a free school. NSN has championed the development of parent and teacher promoted schools and has been providing advice and support to those interested in establishing new schools since 2009, as well as developing networks among interested groups and individuals. This makes NSN ideally placed to fulfil the role for an initial period.

Officials are currently finalising the grant details which will take account the relevant regulations and agreements.

Placement Orders

Mr Burley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many placement orders were authorised by (a) Cambridgeshire County Council and (b) Staffordshire County Council in each of the last three years; and whether the Government plan to review the powers of local authorities to apply for placement orders. [15124]

Tim Loughton: The requested information is available as part of Statistical First Release: Children Looked After in England (including adoption and care leavers). Information for 2009 can be accessed via the Department's website at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000878/index.shtml

Table LAA11 gives information on the number of placement orders granted for each local authority for year ending 31 March 2009. This can be found in the Excel link titled (3rd set of additional tables).

Information for 2008 can be accessed at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000810/index.shtml

Table LAA11 can be found in the Excel link titled (2nd set of additional tables). Information for 2007 can be accessed at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000741/index.shtml

Table LAA11 can be found in the Excel link titled (2nd set of additional tables).

I am examining the adoption process to consider how best to remove barriers and delays to adoption, but have no immediate plans to review the power of local authorities to apply for placement orders.

Primary Education: Merton

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the number of primary school places required in *(a)* the London Borough of Merton and *(b)* Wimbledon constituency in (i) 2011-12, (ii) 2012-13, (iii) 2013-14, (iv) 2014-15 and (iv) 2019-20. [12943]

Mr Gibb: It is the responsibility of each local authority to manage the supply and demand for primary school places in its area and secure a place for every child of statutory school age. Ministers play no role in deciding primary school provision in individual authorities and constituencies but the Department provides capital funding to enable local authorities to provide sufficient school places.

Pupils: Disadvantaged

Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school pupils will receive the pre-paid premium in Hampstead and Kilburn constituency. [11831]

Mr Gibb: On 26 July, the Secretary of State for Education announced in his written ministerial statement the launch of the consultation on school funding arrangements for 2011-12. The details as to how pupils would be classified as entitled to the pupil premium are part of this consultation.

Copies of the consultation document can be found in the House Libraries and on our website

http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations/

Schools: Admissions

Mr Ward: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether the new academy schools will be encouraged to adopt banded admissions policies to ensure all-ability intakes. [6994]

Mr Gibb: Academies, as with other admission authorities, are required to follow the Admissions Code.

This gives academies the flexibility to adopt the admission arrangements which are the most appropriate for children and parents in their areas, within a clear overall framework.

Banded admissions can therefore play a part in current admissions arrangements, but we do not intend to be prescriptive.

Schools: Coventry

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has to refurbish primary and secondary schools in Coventry. [3852]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 23 June 2010]:* The Department is reviewing all capital programmes. This includes the Buildings Schools for the Future (BSF) programme and the Primary Capital Programme. The Department has announced that BSF projects that have reached financial close will continue, together with repeat projects which have outline business case approval prior to 1 January 2010.

On 6 August, the Secretary of State announced that BSF 'sample projects' and some academies would continue to be funded as part of the BSF programme. All projects that have not reached close of dialogue have stopped with immediate effect.

Funding allocations to support local delivery of the Primary Capital Programme have already been confirmed for the current financial year. Decisions about the specific projects that will benefit from this funding are entirely matters for the relevant local authority.

All capital programmes are being considered as part of the comprehensive spending review and the capital review.

Schools: Finance

Liz Kendall: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of total spending on maintained schools is allocated to *(a)* teaching staff and *(b)* all staff costs. [14036]

Mr Gibb: The total net spend on maintained schools in the financial year 2008-09 was £32.3 billion. Of this, £18.9 billion was spent on teaching staff, representing 58.5% of the total. The cost of all staff (including teaching staff) was £22.7 billion, representing 70.2% of the total.

Schools: Greater London

Mary Macleod: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what percentage of secondary schools in London have expressed interest in becoming an academy. [5228]

Mr Gibb: As of 10 September, 116 maintained secondary schools in London had registered an interest in academy status. At the point that schools were invited to register an interest in applying for academy status, on 26 May 2010, there were 376 maintained secondary schools in London. This represents 31% of maintained secondary schools.

The list of schools that have registered an interest in becoming an Academy is published at:

www.education.gov.uk/academies

and will be updated on a regular basis.

Schools: Listed Buildings

Heidi Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how many projects in the Building Schools for the Future programme have been affected by an English Heritage listing decision during the design period since the inception of the programme; [13762]

(2) what estimate he has made of the level of expenditure incurred in the Building Schools for the Future programme as a result of the listing of school buildings by English Heritage since the inception of the programme; [13763]

(3) what recent discussions he has had with representatives of English Heritage on the Building Schools for the Future programme. [13764]

Mr Gibb: Information about the number of projects and the level of expenditure incurred in the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme as a result of the listing of school buildings by English Heritage is not held centrally.

There have been no recent discussions between the Secretary of State and representatives of English Heritage on the BSF programme.

Schools: Oldham

Mr Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will examine the case for a new Catholic high school in Oldham following the merger of Our Lady's, Royton and St Augustine, Werneth. [11549]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 27 July 2010]*: Under current legislation local authorities are responsible for planning and securing sufficient and suitable maintained schools in their area. Where changes are proposed, a statutory process must be followed which is decided under established local decision making arrangements. The proposals from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Salford to establish a new voluntary aided Roman Catholic secondary school in Oldham on 1 September 2012 to replace two closing Roman Catholic schools—Our Lady's RC High School and St Augustine of Canterbury RC High School—were approved on 23 March 2009.

The Secretary of State's announcement on 6 August included an allocation of capital for the proposed new Roman Catholic school in Oldham.

Schools: Sports

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what discussions he has had on assisting schools to provide sport in schools for children with *(a)* mental health disabilities and *(b)* physical disabilities. [13359]

Tim Loughton: The Secretary of State has not, as of yet, had discussions on assisting schools to provide sport in schools for children with mental health disabilities and physical disabilities. However, on 28 June my right hon. Friends the Secretary of State and the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport announced the creation of an Olympic and Paralympic-style competition to encourage schools to provide more competitive school sport. This new competition, funded through the lottery, will be inclusive and will create competitive sports for disabled pupils at all levels, with the national finals showcasing the best in Olympic and Paralympic sport. At school level, the initial pilots will include at least 25 special schools and a further 25 schools will consider how to involve disabled pupils in mainstream schools. Further details of this national competition framework will be announced later this year.

Schools: Standards

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 6 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 193W, on schools: standards, for what reasons his Department does not hold information on which local authorities do not undertake school organisation plans following the removal of the requirement to do so in 2004; if he will make it his policy to collect such information; and if he will make a statement. [13485]

Mr Gibb: We have made it easier for free schools and Academies to be established by new groups, including outstanding teachers, independently of local authorities. Within that context, we do not see it as part of the role of central Government to collect routine information about proposed school reorganisation plans within local authorities.

Secondary Education: Gravesham

Mr Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what representations he has received on improving secondary school provision in Gravesham constituency. [16449]

Mr Gibb: Although the Department has not received specific representations from others, my hon. Friend wrote to the Secretary of State recently to clarify local authority powers to require schools to admit pupils above their published admissions number where there is a shortage of places.

We want all parents to have access to a good school, and our new academies and free schools policies are designed to address this, providing more choice for parents and the necessary freedoms to drive up standards across the country.

Special Educational Needs: Academies

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how he plans to ensure sufficient funding for academies for *(a)* special educational needs support services, *(b)* behaviour support services, *(c)* education welfare services, *(d)* school meals, *(e)* pupils' support and *(f)* staffing costs. [14006]

Mr Gibb: Academies' General Annual Grant has a budget share element based on the relevant local authority's school funding formula, together with a grant (Local Authority Central Spend Equivalent Grant) which is intended to replace local authority services provided to maintained schools and is calculated on the basis of the authority's spending level on those services. The services listed are funded as follows:

Service/Cost	*Element of General Annual Grant*
Special needs support services	Budget share and/or LACSEG depending on local authority arrangements
Behaviour support services	LACSEG
Education welfare	LACSEG
School meals	Budget share
Pupil support	LACSEG
Staffing costs	Budget share and LACSEG

The basis of funding for academies from the academic year 2011/12 onwards is the subject of a review, announced on 26 July 2010 as part of the school funding consultation document issued on that day. This review is based on the principle that conversion to academy status should not bring financial advantage or disadvantage; and that local authority responsibility for services should be properly recognised in the financial arrangements.

Special Educational Needs: Sunderland

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what capital funding he plans to make available to schools for children with special educational needs in Sunderland. [10999]

Mr Gibb: On 5 July the Secretary of State announced a review of all areas of the Department for Education's capital spending, including funding for special educational needs schools. Its purpose is to ensure that future capital investment represents good value for money and enables us to build more for less. We will use its advice to focus capital spending on key need. All future capital funding, including for schools in Sunderland, is subject to the outcome of the capital review and the comprehensive spending review.

The capital review team will be providing advice to Ministers for use in the comprehensive spending review, and will complete its work by the end of the calendar year.

Teach First

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he will take to ensure that graduates from universities in every region take part in the Teach First programme. [12274]

Mr Gibb: Teach First currently directly markets the programme to universities across the UK and overseas, and graduates from every region are able to take part in the Teach First programme. Teach First is currently based in London, midlands, north west, and Yorkshire. The new funding announced by the Secretary of State on 5 July was largely intended to pave the way for further expansion of the Teach First programme into schools in areas not already served by Teach First, including the north east, south west and east of England, ensuring coverage across all regions by 2013/14.

Vocational Guidance

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to make the commencement order to implement the careers education provisions in section 250 of the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009; and what discussions his Department has had with Ofsted on ensuring that those provisions are taken into account during future inspections of schools in England. [15921]

Mr Gibb: The Government are reviewing the provision of careers education and guidance, and the commencement of section 250 of the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 has been delayed pending that review.

Schools already have a clear legal obligation to ensure pupils receive information about apprenticeships. The Education and Skills Act 2008 requires schools, in discharging their statutory duty to provide careers education, to provide impartial information and up-to-date materials that present a full range of 16 to 18 education or training options. Ofsted inspections take account of the support provided to pupils, including effective careers education and guidance.

Youth Services: Finance

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will take steps to ensure that youth services are maintained at existing levels following the ending of ring-fenced funding for such services. [14558]

Tim Loughton: We are committed to ensuring that our young people continue to receive high quality youth services. This is reflected in our vision for the new National Citizen Service, which will aim to offer every 16-year-old in the UK a personal and social development programme that builds a sense of purpose, optimism and belonging.

The Government do not set a budget for spending on youth services. Local authorities receive funding from Government through the revenue support grant for youth services and it is for them to decide how much funding should be spent based on Government priorities and local needs.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Press Cuttings

Mr Jenkin: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the House of Commons Commission, how much the House of Commons Service paid for press cuttings services provided to *(a)* the House of Commons Library, *(b)* Select Committees of the House and *(c)* other officers and bodies of the House (i) in each of the last three months and (ii) in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [15530]

Sir Stuart Bell: Expenditure by the House of Commons Service for press cutting services was as follows:

£

	(i) In each of last three months	*(ii) In last 12 months for which figures are available September 2009-August 2010*
(a) House of Commons Library	0	0
(b) House of Commons Select Committees		13,665
June 2010	803	
July 2010	1,018	
August 2010	1,331	
(c) Media and Communications Service[1]		
For House of Commons general:		26,628
June 2010	1,774	
July 2010	2,274	
August 2010	644	
For Select Committees, print/online:		29,215
June 2010	1,520	
July 2010	2,612	
August 2010	1,377	

[1] MCS pays for coverage of the work of Select Committees, but a small number of Committees also purchase a service with a wider remit, to inform them of developments in their subject area.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Air Pollution: EU Law

Mary Macleod: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to meet air quality targets in EU legislation. [16093]

Richard Benyon: The Government take their air quality obligations very seriously, and are committed to working towards full compliance with the air quality limits set down in EU legislation as soon as possible.

The UK is now compliant with the EU limits for most air quality pollutants. For particulate matter (PM_{10}), EU limits are already met with the exception of very few areas in London. The Government have been working with the Mayor of London, and in May this year, submitted evidence to the European Commission showing that full compliance with the PM_{10} limits in London is expected by the extended deadline of 2011 as set out in the EU ambient air quality directive (2008/50/EC).

Outside of urban areas, much of the UK already meets the EU air quality limits for nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) but, along with other EU countries, faces a challenge in achieving the limits in major urban areas, such as London, by the 2010 deadline. We plan to use the provisions in the ambient air quality directive to secure the additional time available (up to 2015) to meet the NO_2 limit values. DEFRA is currently in discussions with the Mayor of London, local authorities and other Government Departments, to determine what can be done to achieve the NO_2 limit values as soon as possible.

Badgers: Disease Control

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to her Department's consultation on badger control, for what length of time it is proposed that a regime of licences for badger culling should be in place. [16001]

Mr Paice: The proposal in the consultation on a badger control policy is that licences to cull badgers would cover a fixed period, but not less than four years. It also makes clear that the policy of granting licences will be reviewed after four years, or sooner if any monitoring data show unexpected results or if new evidence or control tools become available (such as an oral badger vaccine and/or cattle vaccine).

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to her Department's consultation on badger control, what criteria will be used by Natural England to determine how many badgers in a proposed cull area may be killed. [16002]

Mr Paice: As set out in the consultation on a badger control policy, to gain a licence to cull, applicants will have to show that culling will achieve badger densities low enough to reduce TB transmission but not lead to local extinction.

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to her Department's consultation on badger control, what estimate her Department has made of the cost of policing badger culls; and whether she has discussed this with the Association of Chief Police Officers. [16043]

Mr Paice: It is possible that any future culling operation will generate policing costs. However, the scale of any extra policing needed is difficult to quantify at this stage, as it depends on the extent of the threat of any illegal activity. We are currently discussing a range of issues relating to badger control measures with the Association of Chief Police Officers, including costs.

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to her Department's consultation on badger control, whether culling licences will permit farmers to go on to other landowners' property to cull badgers. [16045]

Mr Paice: Culling licences would not permit compulsory access to land for culling. As set out in the consultation document, one of the proposed criteria for a culling licence would be that there is access for culling over at least 70% of the land area.

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to her Department's consultation on badger control, what percentage of landowners in a minimum area of 150 square kilometres will have to take part in an application for a badger culling licence to meet the requirement laid down in the consultation document. [16046]

Mr Paice: As set out in the consultation on a badger control policy, to gain a licence to cull, applicants will have to demonstrate that within the area of at least 150 km^2 there is access for culling to over 70% of the area.

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to her Department's consultation on badger control, whether badgers culled under the proposals will undergo post-mortem testing for bovine tuberculosis. [16047]

Mr Paice: Given the extent of evidence already available on the prevalence of bovine tuberculosis (bTB) in the badger population, we do not propose to check whether individual badgers are infected with bTB.

Blackwater River: Footpaths

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she plans to take to protect private property along the Blackwater river from intrusions from the planned coastal path; and if she will make a statement. [15977]

Richard Benyon: Under part 9 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 any private property along the Blackwater river will be protected in the same way as any other coastal property that may be affected by proposals for a coastal route. In order to protect privacy, the right of access to coastal land will not apply to any land used as a garden, or any land covered by buildings or the curtilage of such land.

Any proposals that Natural England may make for the position of the coastal route along the Blackwater river will be discussed with owners and occupiers of affected land. In addition, owners and occupiers will also be able to object to proposals and any such objections will be considered by the Planning Inspectorate.

The Secretary of State will make the final decision on the coastal route for a particular stretch of the English coast. In doing so she must strike a fair balance between the interests of the public in having rights of access over land and the interests of any person with a relevant interest in any land that might be affected by the new right of coastal access.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Vaccination

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much her Department plans to spend on vaccines against bovine tuberculosis in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12. [16044]

Mr Paice: Planned expenditure on bovine tuberculosis vaccines during the current financial year (2010-11) is £6.7 million. This includes vaccines research and the Badger Vaccine Deployment Project.

No decisions on future spend will be made until the results of the spending review are known.

Departmental Billing

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average cost to her Department was of processing the payment of an invoice in the latest period for which figures are available; and what proportion of invoices settled in that period her Department paid *(a)* electronically and *(b)* by cheque. [16164]

Richard Benyon: The latest data indicate that the average cost of processing and paying an invoice, during the period June to August 2010, is £3.68.

This includes all of the direct costs attributed to processing the invoice, any returns or rework and payment of the invoice. This cost excludes any apportionment for overheads and systems costs since these relate to all finance processing services and are not directly attributable to any one element of the service.

98.6% of invoices, during the period June to August 2010, were paid electronically with the remaining 1.4% being paid by cheque.

Departmental Contracts

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the monetary value is of contracts her Department has awarded to each *(a)* management consultancy and *(b)* IT company since 7 May 2010. [16185]

Richard Benyon: The monetary value of new contracts awarded by the Department, including its executive agencies, since the 7 May 2010 is as follows.

(a) Management consultancy: £84,820

(b) IT: £131,534.88.

Departmental Empty Property

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the estimated monetary value is of each vacant *(a)* building and *(b)* parcel of land owned by her Department in each region. [16240]

Richard Benyon: The information requested is set out in the following table:

Core DEFRA	*Division*	*Property reference*	*Property name*	*Town*	*Postcode*	*Leasehold or freehold*	*Value (£)*	*Basis*
Core DEFRA	Core	54	Thirsk (Sowerby) Buffer Depot	Thirsk	Y07 1QX	Freehold	275,000	Market value as at 31 March 2010
Core DEFRA	Core	272	Longbenton VIC—surplus land	Newcastle	NE12 9SE	Freehold	970,000	Market value as at 31 March 2010
Core DEFRA	Core	302	Efford Paddock plots x 2	Lymington	SO41 0JD	Freehold	25,000	Market appraisal as at 1 October 2010
Core DEFRA	Core	317	Remaining land at Terrington Farm—Delamore	Kings Lynn	PE34 4PW	Freehold	12,000	Agreed sale price—with solicitors
Core DEFRA	Core	317	Terrington—Broadlands	Kings Lynn	PE34 4PW	Freehold	150,000	Agreed sale price—with solicitors
Core DEFRA	Core	641	Caversham Road	Reading	RG1 7BT	Leasehold	0	n/a
Core DEFRA	Core	564	Ponton Road	London	SW8 5AX	Leasehold	0	n/a
NE	NE	741	Genesis 1, York Business Park, Hesslington	York	YO10 5ZQ	Leasehold	0	n/a
NE	NE	—	4 The Embankment, Sovereign Street	Leeds	LS1 4BA	Leasehold	0	n/a

Departmental Press: Subscriptions

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much her Department spent on newspapers, periodicals and trade profession magazines in each year since 2001. [16232]

Richard Benyon: The figures in the following table have been extracted from the Department's accounts under the headings 'Purchase of Publications' and 'Subscriptions to Publications' where possible. Figures include the purchase of books and subscriptions to relevant trade internet news services.

Figures start from 2005 as to obtain them from 2001 would incur disproportionate cost.

	£
2005-06	1,679,819.41
2006-07	1,411,988.31
2007-08	1,275,260.31
2008-09	1,311,449.05
2009-10	1,261,428.23

Departmental Public Expenditure

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if her Department will take steps to assess the effects on *(a)* equality of incomes, *(b)* equality of assets and *(c)* equality of access to services of measures relating to its expenditure under consideration in the Spending Review. [16379]

Richard Benyon: The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs will ensure the relevant equality considerations are taken in to account in the context of expenditure under consideration in the spending review, in compliance with our obligations under the Sex Discrimination Act 1975, the Race Relations Act 1976, and the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.

Departmental Secondment

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff her Department has appointed on secondment since 7 May 2010; and from what organisation each such member of staff has been seconded. [16274]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA has appointed two staff on secondment since 7 May 2010, one from the Environment Agency and one from Natural England.

No secondments have been appointed since the start of the recruitment freeze (24 May).

Flood Control

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans she has for the future provision of flood prevention services previously provided through the Government office network; and what assessment she has made of the likely effects on flood prevention services of the closure of that Network. [16421]

Richard Benyon: On 22 July the Government announced their intention in principle to abolish the remaining

Government offices subject to consideration of consequential issues, including which Government office functions need to continue. The spending review process is being used to test which activities should continue, and to decide the most cost-effective way of doing this.

The final decisions on the future of the Government office network, including the transfer of ongoing functions, will be announced at the end of the spending review in the autumn.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent estimate she has made of the costs of providing *(a)* flood storage on farmland, and other soft forms of flood defence and *(b)* physical flood defences, walls and other hard forms of flood defence. [16426]

Richard Benyon: Options for managing flood risk are considered on a case by case basis by the responsible operating authorities (the Environment Agency, local authorities and internal drainage boards). The cost will vary from place to place depending on local circumstances.

DEFRA's guidance is that all technically feasible options should be considered and appraised in an open, transparent and comparable way to establish which is the most cost-effective and appropriate. Options should include flood storage and other 'soft' forms of flood defence, as well as 'hard' defences such as flood defence walls and embankments.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had with *(a)* the Environment Agency, *(b)* the Association of Drainage Authorities and *(c)* other interested parties on the apportionment of responsibility for dredging and maintenance of main watercourses. [16427]

Richard Benyon: Ministers have regular discussions with the Environment Agency, the Association of Drainage Authorities and other organisations in relation to the efficient and effective management of flood risk from all sources, including main rivers. The Environment Agency is currently in discussions with internal drainage boards about dredging and maintenance of some stretches of main rivers.

Flood Control: Expenditure

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding her Department allocated for the purpose of flood prevention to *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* Swindon Borough Council in each of the last three years. [16387]

Richard Benyon: Local authority expenditure is supported primarily through Formula Grant from central Government and through capital grants from the Environment Agency (the latter are issued under delegation from DEFRA).

Formula Grant is "unhypothecated block grant", which means that local authorities are free to spend it on any service. The calculations carried out include adjustments such as "floor damping," which guarantees every authority receives a minimum change year-on-year on a like-for-like basis, that help ensure local authorities receive a fair settlement. As a result it is not possible to say how much grant has been provided for any particular service within each block.

The Government collate outturns from local authorities, which estimate expenditure from formula grant and are published by the Department of Communities and Local Government.

The following table summarises the outturns from all local authorities in England and includes provisional data for 2009-11.

In 2009-10 Swindon borough council received £46,000 in capital grant funding from the Environment Agency. The council did not receive any funding in 2007-8 or 2008-09, and nothing is planned for 2010-11.

In addition, Swindon has been allocated £10,000 (via special grant) this year as part of the £2 million DEFRA announced would be allocated to local authorities for the preparation of preliminary flood risk assessments. This is in addition to £100,000 announced for Swindon in August 2009 (from a total national allocation to local authorities of £9.7 million via the area based grant) for the preparation of surface water management plans.

Local authority outturns

£ thousand

	2007-08	*2008-09*	*2009-10 (Budget)*	*2010-11 (Budget)*
Defences against flooding	18,437	15,970	16,908	18,319
Internal drainage and related work	29,959	30,960	32,612	36,232
Coastal protection	14,451	14,803	14,253	14,977
Levy: Environment Agency Flood Defence	27,158	28,271	30,674	31,233
Total	90,005	90,004	94,447	100,761

Livestock: Cloning

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the animal welfare implications of farming cloned animals. [16038]

Mr Paice: The welfare of farmed animals is regulated in the UK through a combination of European and national legislation, and UK welfare standards are considered to be among the highest. Cloned livestock would be subject to exactly the same welfare requirements as other farm animals, as would animals involved in the production of cloned offspring.

Marine Conservation Zones

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress she has made in creating marine conservation zones. [16031]

Richard Benyon: Natural England (NE) and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) have set up four regional projects which are working towards making proposals for possible Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) sites to NE and the JNCC by summer 2011. The projects will base their proposals on ecological and other guidance drawn up by our delivery partners and DEFRA. They will also complete detailed Impact Assessments.

The projects will report to both statutory bodies and the independent Science Advisory Panel (SAP) at four key stages. Their first draft reports were submitted in July 2010, the next progress reports are due at the end of October 2010, and the third set of draft proposals are due in February 2011. The delivery partners will consider the final set of proposals, and accompanying Impact Assessments (due to be sent to them in June 2011), and then make their recommendations to Ministers in October 2011.

DEFRA has also established the SAP to support the four regional projects in the MCZ selection process by offering objective scientific assessment of site proposals, and independent advice to Ministers. Panel members have been drawn from a diverse range of marine scientific disciplines in order to ensure a balanced and comprehensive skill set.

Marine Conservation Zones: Finance

Sheryll Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much public funding each of the four regional projects constituting the Marine Conservation Zone Project received in financial year *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [R] [15983]

Richard Benyon: The following table shows how much public funding each of the four regional projects that constitute the Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) Project received in the financial year (FY) 2009-10, and projected funding for 2010-11.

£

Regional MCZ Project	*Actual FY 2009-10*	*Projected FY 2010-11*[1]
Finding Sanctuary	516,900	508,000
Balanced Seas	431,716	489,200
Net Gain	479,914	734,030
Irish Seas Conservation Zone	453,700	503,225

[1] The funding to each project will be reduced during the FY to take into account savings made as a result of the public sector expenditure controls on marketing and advertising.

The final budget provided will be dependent on the outcome of an exemption from the spending control and other efficiencies identified in year.

Sheryll Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was spent under each budget heading on each of the four Marine Conservation Zones by *(a)* her Department, *(b)* Natural England and *(c)* the Joint Nature Conservation Committee in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10. [16018]

Richard Benyon: The following table shows how much was spent on each of the four Marine Conservation Zone projects—Finding Sanctuary, Balanced Seas, Net Gain and Irish Sea Conservation Zones—by DEFRA, Natural England and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) for the financial years (FY) 2008-09 and 2009-10.

Funding provided to the regional MCZ projects

	Funding provider			
	DEFRA	*Natural England*	*JNCC*	*Total funding*
FY 2008-09[1]				
Finding Sanctuary	0	184,000	0	184,000
Balanced Seas	0	32,000	0	32,000
Net Gain	0	0	0	0
Irish Sea Conservation Zones	0	52,532	0	52,532
FY 2009-10[2]				
Finding Sanctuary	441,900	75,000	0	516,900
Balanced Seas	286,716	145,000	0	431,716
Net Gain	404,914	75,000	0	479,914
Irish Sea Conservation Zones	378,700	75,000	0	453,700

[1] FY 2008-09: Three regional MCZ projects were established in late FY 2008-09.

[2] FY 2009-10: The Net Gain Project was not established until June 2009.

Potatoes: Diseases

Mr Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many outbreaks of the potato disease Dickeya solani have been detected in England in *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 2010 to date; what the origin is of this infection; and what steps her Department is taking to ensure that the outbreak is contained. [16019]

Mr Paice: Dickeya solani is a bacterium (not yet officially named) of the Dickeya genus which affects potatoes. It is already present in Europe and is spreading on seed potatoes of Dutch origin. In consultation with industry representatives, it has been confirmed that quarantine status (i.e. exclusion and control through the EU Plant Health Directive (2000/29/EC)) would not be appropriate for D.solani due to its distribution in the EU. It is controlled; like every blackleg (bacterial disease of potatoes), through visual inspections during seed potato classification. Laboratory analysis is necessary to differentiate the D. solani strain from other blackleg causing strains (Pectobactehum atrosepticum and Dickeya dianthicola). The Seed Potato Classification Scheme (SPCS) includes tolerances for blackleg, including D. solani where these are exceeded the crop involved is downgraded or failed.

In 2009 there were 16 positive cases of D.solani in England and Wales from seed and ware potato crop samples submitted to the Food and Environment Research Agency (Fera) by growers or Plant Health and Seeds Inspectors (PHSI), who operate the SPCS in England and Wales. The origin of the seed stocks involved was the Netherlands.

A survey of seed potato crops conducted by Fera during seed potato classification in 2010 has shown that there were 18 (7%) cases of D.solani in England and Wales from 256 seed potato crops showing symptoms of blackleg. In 15 of the 18 cases the seed potatoes involved originated from the Netherlands. In the other three cases the seed potatoes had been multiplied in England, but the original source of the seed was not traced. Other blackleg causing organisms were responsible for the remaining 238 (93%) of cases in seed potatoes from UK and overseas sources.

There were also 24 cases, of D. solani in samples of seed and ware potatoes submitted to Fera by growers or Fera PHSI. The origin of the seed stocks in these cases, where disclosed, was the Netherlands.

In addition to the visual inspections already undertaken in the SPCS for blackleg and the specific survey for D. solani referred to above, Fera is collaborating with the Scottish Executive and the Scottish Crop Research Institute to conduct research on D. solani. This includes a newly proposed three year project funded by the Potato Council and Scottish Executive which incorporates a survey of seed potato crops in England and Wales to further explore the distribution of D. solani within the SPCS. This work will help to determine whether any changes to the SPCS requirements are needed.

Racehorses: Deaths

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what information her Department holds on the number of racehorses which *(a)* died or *(b)* were put down as a result of racing injuries in each year since 2005. [16365]

Mr Paice: The Government do not collect these figures. The British Horseracing Authority (BHA), which is responsible for the governance and regulation of horseracing in this country, records and monitors all racehorse falls and injuries sustained on racecourses, and analyses information relating to fatal injuries to determine if those accidents can be prevented. This allows the BHA to take action if necessary, including implementing long-term strategies and veterinary research programmes to help reduce the risk of injury and death in racehorses. The BHA publishes annual injury and fatality data on its website.

Horses are protected by the Animal Welfare Act 2006 throughout their lives, which means that their owner, and the person responsible for their care, has a duty to protect their welfare at all times.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Employment: Discrimination

Philip Davies: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities pursuant to the answer of 8 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 592W, on the Equalities and Human Rights Commission, in how many of the 25 discrimination cases compensation was paid; how much was paid in each case; and how many of them were settled out of court. [16078]

Lynne Featherstone: The Equality and Human Rights Commission is independent and manages its own affairs; the following is based on information it has provided.

Of the 25 discrimination cases:

(a) compensation was paid in one case;

(b) the amount paid in that case was £2,000;

(c) the case was settled out of court.

Equal Pay and Equal Opportunities

Mr Bain: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what steps she plans to take to reduce *(a)* the gender pay gap and *(b)* sex discrimination in the workplace. [13243]

Lynne Featherstone: We are committed to promoting equal pay and will take a range of measures to end discrimination in the workplace. We have already announced plans to make pay secrecy clauses unenforceable, allowing women to shed light on discriminatory pay practices.

We will extend the right to request flexible working to all employees, consulting with business on how best to do so and we are committed to promoting a new system of flexible parental leave and will consult on this at the first opportunity.

We are also looking at how to promote gender equality on company boards and have asked Lord Davies of Abersoch to develop a business strategy to increase the number of women on the boards of listed companies in the UK.

We will continue to consider what further action is most appropriate to reduce discrimination and will announce our decisions in due course.

Equality: Budget June 2010

Sandra Osborne: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities if she will make an assessment of the effect on *(a)* men and *(b)* women in Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock constituency of the measures in the June 2010 Budget. [12366]

Lynne Featherstone: My right hon. Friend the Minister for Women and Equalities and I take this issue very seriously. To support Departments in taking account of equality considerations when assessing policy options in the context of identifying departmental savings, Government Equalities Office officials have held a series of advisory meetings with other Government Departments and organised training seminars, one of which was attended by the Regulator, the Equality and Human Rights Commission.

There are no plans to commission separate work on how the provisions in the Budget will affect men and women for the constituency of Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock.

Females: Low Incomes

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities pursuant to the contribution of the Minister for Equalities of 6 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 153, in the Adjournment debate on public expenditure reductions (women), what the evidential basis is for the statement that the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) was inaccurate in what it said; and what assumptions made by the IFS are unreliable or invalid. [15228]

Lynne Featherstone: In its August analysis of the June Budget the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) sought to include some previously un-modelled reforms. In order to do this, it made some strong assumptions, for example around disability living allowance, housing benefit, and in-year tax credit changes. It is therefore necessary to treat the results of their modelling with appropriate caution, given that the choice of assumptions will have a clear impact on the conclusions reached. The model also omits a number of key policy measures that are difficult to assign to households, but which are likely to impact on incomes and/or employment—for instance, changes to corporation tax and capital gains tax. For these reasons we cannot treat the IFS results as definitive.

UN Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women

David Miliband: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities how many officials at the Government Equalities Office are working on preparation of the UK's Periodic Report to the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women. [14227]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government are strongly committed to fulfilling their international obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), which it views as an essential tool to progress gender equality domestically and internationally. The Government are on track to submit the UK 7th CEDAW periodic report to the UN in May 2011, as scheduled. To ensure the widest possible contribution and input to this report, the Government Equalities Office (GEO) has and will continue to engage with other Government Departments, the devolved Administrations and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) throughout the drafting process:

The GEO has set up a forum of prominent umbrella NGOs/other partners to keep these organisations up to date and to enable a productive dialogue.

To inform and pursue this dialogue, the GEO is also planning to host a wider NGO event towards the end of the year.

The GEO hosts a cross-government officials group and a Devolved Administration Gender Director's Network.

Throughout the compilation/clearance of the periodic report GEO officials will use all these forums to contribute to the drafting of the report throughout the process.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Accelerated Development Zones

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made on the establishment of accelerated development zones in respect of each local authority which expressed an interest in such zones in June 2009. [16399]

Robert Neill: On 20 September, the Deputy Prime Minister announced that the Government would allow local authorities to borrow using tax increment financing.

Further details will be published later this year in a White Paper on local economic growth, which will consider the most appropriate framework of incentives for local authorities to support growth, including exploring options for business rate incentives, which would allow local authorities to reinvest the benefits of growth into local communities.

Building Regulations

David Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many notifications were made under Part P of Building Regulations in England and Wales in each year since 2005; and how many notifications there were under the scheme relating to the fitting of a new consumer unit in domestic properties in each such year, excluding those fitted in newly-built properties. [15898]

Andrew Stunell: Notifications under Part P (Electrical safety) of the Building Regulations may be made either directly to a building control body (local authorities and approved inspectors) or by registered installers through an authorised Part P competent person self-certification scheme. There are no figures available for those installations notified directly to a building control body as the Department does not hold such information. The following table sets out those notifications made through competent person schemes since 2005:

	Part P notifications through competent person schemes
April 2005 to March 2006	938,890
April 2006 to March 2007	1,142,046
April 2007 to March 2008	1,210,748
April 2008 to March 2009	1,239,951
April 2009 to March 2010	1,214,917

Separate information on the number of new consumer units installed in existing domestic properties has not been collected.

Connaught Partnerships

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will take steps to assist housing associations and local authorities to bring in-house contracts which had been let to Connaught Partnerships. [16220]

Grant Shapps: We do not intend to assist housing associations or local authorities to bring in-house contracts previously let to Connaught Partnerships. This is a matter for those landlords affected.

Since Connaught entered administration large parts of their business have already been bought out by other contractors; Morgan Sindall (who have taken over the majority of the social housing arm) and Centrica (who have bought the electric and gas compliance part of the business). This has safeguarded the majority of jobs at risk following Connaught's collapse.

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to review his Department's policy on the maintenance of housing association propeties to take account of the entry into administration of Connaught Partnerships. [16221]

Grant Shapps: No, the Government see no reason and have no plans to revise their policies on the maintenance of housing association properties.

Since Connaught entered administration large parts of their business have already been bought out by other contractors; Morgan Sindall (who have taken over the majority of the social housing arm) and Centrica (who have bought the electric and gas compliance part of the business). This has safeguarded the majority of jobs at risk following Connaught's collapse.

Councillors: Age

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) whether he has made a recent estimate of the number and proportion of councillors under the age of 35 years old in local authorities *(a)* in London and *(b)* outside London; [16034]

(2) whether he has made a recent estimate of the number of local authorities with no councillors aged under 35 years of age; [16035]

(3) whether he has made an estimate of the number and proportion of councillors elected in May 2010 who were *(a)* under 25, *(b)* under 30, *(c)* under 35, *(d)* under 40, *(e)* under 50, *(f)* over 60, *(g)* over 65, *(h)* over 70, *(i)* over 80 and *(j)* over 90 years old. [16040]

Robert Neill: We have made no such estimates. Data on the age profile of councillors are collected by the Local Government and Improvement Development body (previously known as IDeA) as part of its National Census of Local Authority Councillors in England, the last of which was carried out in 2008.

Departmental Billing

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average cost to his Department was of processing the payment of an invoice in the latest period for which figures are available; and what proportion of invoices settled in that period his Department paid *(a)* electronically and *(b)* by cheque. [16159]

Robert Neill: The average cost to Communities and Local Government for processing the payment of an invoice in the current financial year 2010-11 is £1.81. Of the invoices settled over that period, 97.93% have been paid electronically and the remaining 2.07% paid by cheque.

Departmental Contracts

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the monetary value is of contracts his Department has awarded to each *(a)* management consultancy and *(b)* IT company since 7 May 2010. [16191]

Robert Neill: Details of the Department's expenditure for the first quarter of financial year 2010-11 have been published on its website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/spendingdata1011.

Departmental Empty Property

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the estimated monetary value is of each vacant *(a)* building and *(b)* parcel of land owned by his Department in each region. [16254]

Robert Neill: No freehold property owned by Communities and Local Government is vacant.

CLG currently has vacant space within two existing leasehold properties, but due to the nature of the tenancy agreement the value of this asset is nil to the Department. I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for West Suffolk (Matthew Hancock) on 6 September, *Official Report*, column 20W.

Departmental Press: Subscriptions

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department and its predecessors spent on newspapers, periodicals and trade profession magazines in each year since 2001. [16235]

Robert Neill: The Department has spent the following on newspapers, periodicals and trade profession magazines with its preferred suppliers since 2003. Figures for earlier years could be extracted only at disproportionate cost.

Financial year	*Amount (£)*
2003-04	180,408
2004-05	139,106
2005-06	159,369
2006-07	129,370
2007-08	86,834
2008-09	136,892
2009-10	113,308
Total	945,287

Departmental Public Expenditure

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if his Department will take steps to assess the effects on *(a)* equality of incomes, *(b)* equality of assets and *(c)* equality of access to services of measures relating to its expenditure under consideration in the Spending Review. [16357]

Grant Shapps: CLG will ensure the relevant equality considerations are taken in to account in the context of expenditure under consideration in the spending review, in compliance with our obligations under the Sex Discrimination Act 1975, the Race Relations Act 1976, and the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.

Departmental Redundancy Pay

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what severance payments have been paid to *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* special advisers in his Department who left office after the last general election. [15404]

Robert Neill: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to the hon. Member for Perth and North Perthshire (Pete Wishart) on 5 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 55W.

Departmental Secondment

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff his Department has appointed on secondment since

7 May 2010; and from what organisation each such member of staff has been seconded. [16273]

Robert Neill: The Department has appointed fewer than five secondees since 7 May 2010. Further details are withheld on grounds of confidentiality.

Empty Dwelling Management Orders

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will review the operation of interim empty dwelling management orders. [15993]

Andrew Stunell: The coalition agreement commits to exploring a range of measures to bring empty homes back into use. Ministers are currently looking at the nature of the problem and potential solutions including the operation of interim empty dwelling management orders and the civil liberty implications. We expect to make a further announcement shortly.

Fire Services: West Midlands

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will take steps to ensure that Hereford and Worcester fire and rescue service is funded on a basis equivalent to that of West Midlands fire service. [16140]

Robert Neill: Formula grant is distributed in the same way to all local authorities, as appropriate to the services that they provide.

We have consulted publicly on options for distribution of formula grant from 2011-12 and will take decisions in due course.

Government Departments: Public Consultation

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made in establishing the panel of representative young people to provide advice to Government on topical issues of interest to young citizens referred to in the Government's response to the recommendations of the Youth Citizenship Commission. [16039]

Andrew Stunell: The Youth Citizenship Commission report was commissioned by the previous Administration. New Ministers are currently considering developing proposals for the future of youth services and on new approaches to giving young people a voice and strengthening youth scrutiny over national and local policy. Officials from my Department, with colleagues from the Department for Education, are working to assess the impact of current approaches to youth empowerment and democratic engagement and are drawing on the mechanisms and experience of youth organisations to involve young people directly in this work. Both Departments are also working with the Office for Civil Society to support the National Citizen Service (NCS) programme. Young people were involved in the work that led to the creation of NCS, and their direct contribution to its continuing development is an essential part of future plans for the programme.

Government Offices for the Regions

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 22 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 27-8WS, on regional government, what assessment he made of the merits of holding a consultation on the proposed closure of the Government Office Network. [16418]

Greg Clark: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Liverpool, Riverside (Mrs Ellman) and the hon. Member for North Ayrshire and Arran (Katy Clark) on 27 July, *Official Report*, columns 1037-38W.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he met unions representing staff at the Government Office Network before taking his decision to close that network. [16419]

Greg Clark: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Newcastle upon Tyne North (Catherine McKinnell) on 9 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 605W.

Housing Ombudsman Service: Public Relations

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to his Department's press release of 5 August 2010, if he will place in the Library a copy of the contract and project brief for work undertaken by APCO Worldwide for the Housing Ombudsman; what the cost was of the contract; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* Communications and Engagement Strategy, *(b)* Communications and Engagement Programme and *(c)* Stakeholder Perception Survey. [15046]

Grant Shapps: The contract referred to in the Secretary of State's press release of 5 August between the Housing Ombudsman and APCO Worldwide was to undertake a stakeholder perception survey. This survey was completed in June 2010 and is available on the Independent Housing Ombudsman Ltd (IHOL) website at the following address

www.housing-ombudsman.org.uk

I will place a copy of the contract and the project brief in the House Library.

Landlords: Protection

Mr Swayne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will bring forward proposals to strengthen protection for landlords. [15974]

Andrew Stunell: We have no proposals to strengthen protection for landlords. The current legislative framework delivers the right balance of rights and responsibilities between landlords and tenants and we have no plans to change it.

Local Government Finance

Claire Perry: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress he has made on implementing proposed changes to the rating system to enable local authorities to retain a greater proportion of revenue; and by what date he expects the changes to have been implemented. [16325]

Robert Neill: As announced in the June Budget, the Government will publish a White Paper later in the year which will consider the most appropriate framework of incentives for local authorities to support growth, including exploring options for business rate incentives, which would allow local authorities to reinvest the benefits of growth into local communities.

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has for the future of the area-based grant; and if he will make a statement. [16401]

Robert Neill: Area-based grant is being considered alongside all other grant funding for local authorities in the context of the current spending review which will set the spending plans for 2011-12 to 2014-15. The outcome of the spending review will be announced on 20 October.

In June, we removed ring-fencing from £1.2 billion of grants, confirming the Government's commitment to increasing local authorities' flexibility to use their funding to meet locally identified priorities.

Local Government: Pay

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will discuss with Local Government Employers and unions means of reaching agreement on pay claims for 2011-12 and 2012-13 for local government employees. [15975]

Robert Neill: The pay of local government employees is determined by the relevant National Joint Council or Joint Negotiating Committee governing that work force. Central Government play no role in the pay negotiation machinery involving the employer's side and the trade union side.

Local Government: Public Consultation

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities offer opportunities for young citizens to take a decision-making role in respect of budgets funding activities for young people. [16030]

Andrew Stunell: The Department for Education has previously provided discrete funding, through the Youth Opportunity Fund, for young people to control and decide how it should be spent in their local area. These funds helped all local authorities to develop new approaches to strategic investment in youth activities and facilities. Local authorities continue to receive this funding until March 2011 and in the context of the current fiscal climate, the ring fence has been removed to provide local authorities with greater flexibility to reshape services according to local need.

A number of local authorities have also implemented Participatory Budgeting in their area (giving people a direct say over spending parts of local budgets), including giving young people a say in spending decisions on activities for young people. Examples include Newcastle, Tower Hamlets and Stockton on Tees.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities have *(a)* youth councils and *(b)* other schemes to promote the involvement of young people in local government. [16041]

Andrew Stunell: This information is not held centrally. However, the British Youth Council reports that there are currently over 620 youth councils active across the UK. They work with all levels of local government including parish and community councils as well as unitary authorities, borough and county councils. Members of the UK Youth Parliament (MYPs) combine with or are linked to 84% of youth councils. In 2009-10, 92% of local authorities signed up to supporting the UK Youth Parliament. Other schemes include the Youth4U Young Inspectors programme which, between April 2009 and March 2011, is involving 30 local authorities in examining how marginalised young people can engage in their communities through the scrutiny of local services.

London Thames Gateway Development Corporation

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to his Department's press release of 5 August 2010, if he will place in the Library a copy of the contract and project brief for work undertaken for the London Thames Gateway Development Corporation by Connect Public Affairs; and how much was spent on the contract. [15028]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 13 September 2010]:* A copy of the London Thames Gateway Development Corporation's contract with Connect Public Affairs has been placed in the Library of the House. In the last 12 months the London Thames Gateway Development Corporation has paid £8,002.56 to Connect Public Affairs as a contribution to the secretariat services provided by them to the All Party Thames Gateway Parliamentary Group.

This contract has now been cancelled.

Non-domestic Rates: Social Enterprises

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department provides to local authorities on use of the business rates system to encourage social enterprises in their area. [16285]

Robert Neill: Some social enterprises may potentially qualify for mandatory charity relief or discretionary not-for-profit relief. Charity relief provides an 80% discount on business rates bills which may be topped up to 100% by the relevant local authority. Not-for-profit relief is payable at the discretion of the relevant local authority and provides up to 100% relief. Decisions on whether a particular social enterprise satisfies the relevant eligibility criteria are a matter for individual local authorities.

Planning Permission

Dr Whitehead: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will publish *(a)* the minutes of each meeting and *(b)* the responses to questionnaires conducted in respect of the proposals set out in the Town and Country Planning (General

Permitted Development) (Amendment) No (i) 2 and (ii) 3 (England) Regulations 2010. [15957]

Grant Shapps: I have placed a summary of the representations received on this matter in the Library of the House. My officials met with key partners who had been invited to comment on the proposals—these meetings were not minuted.

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations he received before making the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (Amendment) (No. 2) (England) Order 2010; and if he will publish them. [16048]

Grant Shapps: We sought the views of key partners representing the different interests in this matter prior to bringing forward these legislative changes. A number of other organisations, mainly individual local authorities, also took the opportunity to comment on the proposed changes. I have placed a summary of responses, which includes details of those who responded, in the Library of the House.

Politics: Young People

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will bring forward proposals to encourage young people to participate in politics. [16037]

Andrew Stunell: The Government are keen to promote opportunities for young people to participate in politics. Ministers, MPs and officials provide opportunities for young people to shadow them and learn more about politics. Local government also provides opportunities, including youth councils who work with all levels of local government and give young people a voice in their local area. The British Youth Council reports that there are currently over 620 youth councils active across the UK. Other opportunities for young people to participate in politics include the UK Youth Parliament (UKYP) elections, the UKYP debate in the House of Commons and departmental advisory groups. We will continue to encourage these activities where we can.

Postcodes: Databases

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* letters and *(b)* e-mails his Department has received (i) against and (ii) in favour of deleting county names from the Postcode Address File in the last six months. [15751]

Robert Neill: We have no record of having received correspondence on this issue in the last six months.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has had recent discussions with the Association of Traditional Counties on the deletion of county names from the Postcode Address File. [15753]

Robert Neill: While we recognise the significance of county names for the traditions of our counties, my right hon. Friend has had no such discussions.

Rented Housing: Hyndburn

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many one-room *(a)* social sector and *(b)* private rented sector properties are for rent at (i) under and (ii) over £46 per week in Hyndburn and Haslingden. [15997]

Andrew Stunell: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Rights of Way

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the provision to members of the public of copies of definitive footpath maps proposed by local authorities is within the scope of the Public Sector Mapping Agreement; and if he will make a statement. [15792]

Robert Neill: Members of the public are able to access copies of local authority definitive maps, which depict public rights of way including footpaths, for the purposes of inspection and scrutiny. This will continue to be the case under the Public Sector Mapping Agreement, where these maps are based on Ordnance Survey mapping.

Ordnance Survey has not been made aware of any proposals by local authorities to alter the way in which members of the public are provided with access to copies of definitive maps.

Shared Ownership Schemes: Construction

Richard Harrington: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many shared ownership housing units were constructed in each of the last five years; and what estimate he has made of the number of such units which will be completed in each of the next five years. [15801]

Andrew Stunell: New Build HomeBuy homes encompass all shared ownership homes constructed. Figures for New Build HomeBuy homes are provided in the following table.

Information up to and including 2008-09 is also published in Live Table 1010 on the Communities and Local Government website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/affordablehousingsupply/livetables/

which will be updated for 2009-10 with the publication of the Department's Affordable Housing Statistical Release and Live Tables on 28 October 2010. Information in the table for 2009-10 is taken from the Homes and Communities Agency's statistics released on 15 June 2010.

The Department does not forecast levels of future house building and delivery will be determined by local housing plans.

Additional New Build HomeBuy homes provided in England

	Number
2005-06	8,700
2006-07	10,960

Additional New Build HomeBuy homes provided in England

	Number
2007-08	14,450
2008-09	11,820
2009-10	9,110

Note:
Data are rounded to nearest 10 homes.
Source:
Homes and Communities Agency

Third Sector: Public Consultation

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions he has had with third sector organisations on ensuring that young citizens in community and voluntary groups are informed of opportunities to take up civic roles. [16032]

Andrew Stunell: Ministers for the Department of Communities and Local Government have undertaken a number of discussions with voluntary and community sector organisations. This includes meetings with the Young Advisors Charity and British Youth Council to discuss the roles of young people in the big society and ministerial attendance at a panel discussion on politicians' engagement with young people run by the New Statesman magazine and the Prince's Trust, and attended by young people from a wide variety of organisations.

TRANSPORT

Airlines: Radar

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations he has received from the Air Accidents Investigation Branch on the installation of TCAS II equipment in planes flying in the London area. [15388]

Mrs Villiers: The Air Accidents Investigation Branch (AAIB) has not made any representations to the Secretary of State in respect of TCAS II.

However the AAIB has made the following Safety Recommendation to the Civil Aviation Authority (AAIB Recommendation 2010/060).

> "It is recommended that the Civil Aviation Authority considers whether the carriage of TCAS II should be mandated for aircraft operating in those parts of the London TMA where London City Airport SIDs interact with traffic positioning to land at Heathrow Airport".

This recommendation followed the investigation into a serious incident near London City airport on 27 July 2009 reported in the AAIB September 2010 Bulletin.

Aviation

Sir Alan Haselhurst: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will discuss with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government the inclusion in the scope of the proposed Airport Economic Regulation Bill of provisions to address matters of blight, compensation and compulsory purchase orders in respect of airport expansion schemes. [15213]

Mrs Villiers: We announced in the Queen's Speech in May 2010, the Government's intention to reform the framework for the economic regulation of airports to benefit passengers and to drive investment in better airport services. Government are looking to introduce legislation as soon as parliamentary time allows.

We have no plans to include in the Bill measures relating to blight, compensation and compulsory purchase orders in respect of airport development schemes.

Aviation: Security

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent representations he has received on the use of advanced imaging technology in airports; and if he will make a statement. [15581]

Mrs Villiers: A consultation on the use of security scanners in UK airports was undertaken, closing on 19 July 2010. Over 6,000 responses were received and these are currently being analysed. The Government plan to make an announcement on the way forward soon.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to continue with the trial of the use of full-body security scanners at UK airports; and what assessment he has made of the implications for the UK of the proposals in the Commission Communication to the European Parliament and the Council on the use of security scanners at EU airports, 10865/10. [15976]

Mrs Villiers: The deployment of security scanners continues while the Government consider the responses to a public consultation on an interim code of practice for their use at UK airports.

Given the nature of the continuing terrorist threat to civil aviation, we welcome the European Commission's communication of 15 June 2010. The Government believe that we now need to move quickly to amend existing European implementing legislation to give airports the flexibility to deploy security scanners more effectively and efficiently than at present.

Bury-Rawtenstall Railway Line

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to ensure that the development of the Bury to Rawtenstall rail extension proceeds. [15998]

Mrs Villiers: I would be happy to work with Rossendale borough council, Lancashire county council and Greater Manchester Passengers Transport Executive on the Bury to Rawtenstall rail extension scheme should studies that they are currently undertaking confirm that a new rail service is the best way to meet the transport needs of the corridor between Bury and Rawtenstall. However, all programmes will be subject to affordability and constraints of the outcome of the autumn Spending Review.

Bus Services: Concessions

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost to his Department was of the national concessionary bus travel scheme *(a)* in total and *(b)* per recipient in each year since its introduction; and what estimate he has made of the projected cost of the scheme in each year from 2011-12 to 2014-15. [16417]

Norman Baker: Following the extension of the statutory minimum bus concession in April 2008, to provide free off-peak local bus travel anywhere in England to eligible older and disabled people, the Department for Transport has provided special grant funding to local authorities of £212 million in 2008-09, £217 million in 2009-10 and £223 million in 2010-11. This is in addition to the funding that the Department for Communities and Local Government provides each year for concessionary travel through the formula grant process. Local authorities spent £1.025 billion on concessionary travel (including their own discretionary enhancements) in 2008-09. Figures for 2009-10 have not yet been published.

The average cost per concessionary pass issued is estimated to be around £100 per annum.

The projected future cost of the concessionary travel scheme is as follows:

	£ million
2011-12	1,089
2012-13	1,108
2013-14	1,132
2014-15	1,157

The above forecast is for expenditure by travel concession authorities on concessionary travel for older and disabled people. This includes spend on both the statutory minimum scheme and discretionary concessions and assumes eligible age for the scheme rises in line with the rising female pension age, as has already been committed.

As part of the spending review the Government are exploring how savings can be made in how the scheme is operated—in particular whether savings can be made through a more efficient method by which travel concession authorities reimburse bus operators. These savings have not been included in the forecast.

Bus Services: Finance

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what criteria his Department plans to use in its review of the Bus Services Operators Grant; what consultations his Department is undertaking as part of the review; and if he will make a statement. [13414]

Norman Baker: The Government are considering Bus Service Operators Grant as part of the spending review. Decisions will be made, and announced, in due course.

A public consultation on options for Bus Service Operators Grant (BSOG) reform was held in 2008. Since then, the Department has been talking to representatives from the bus industry and local authorities and has received a number of letters from MPs, interest groups and members of the public.

Cars: Accidents

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of staged car accidents in the latest period for which figures are available; and what estimate has been made of the effects of such accidents on *(a)* car insurance premiums and *(b)* other costs to motorists. [10317]

Mike Penning: The Department for Transport has made no estimate of the number of staged car accidents, or the effect of such accidents on motor insurance premiums and other costs to motorists. This is because insurance claims are made directly to insurance companies by either the policyholder, the other party or the other party's insurer.

The industry set up the Insurance Fraud Bureau to co-ordinate intelligence on insurance fraud. Insurers take insurance fraud very seriously and have set measures in place to deal with it. Where there is sufficient evidence of fraud the police will be informed but it is unlikely that the industry would contact the Department before doing so.

Dartford-Thurrock Crossing: Road Traffic

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to help improve traffic flow at the Dartford Crossing. [15982]

Mike Penning: The Highways Agency are currently implementing a package of measures, including better information to road users and further traffic management technology to reduce congestion.

We are currently examining options for addressing traffic flow issues at the Dartford Crossing and will make an announcement in due course.

Departmental Billing

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average cost to his Department was of processing the payment of an invoice in the latest period for which figures are available; and what proportion of invoices settled in that period his Department paid *(a)* electronically and *(b)* by cheque. [16171]

Norman Baker: The average cost of processing the payment of an invoice for the Department is £4.99.

In determining the average cost of processing an invoice, the cost is calculated by taking the staff costs for those staff who are solely involved in invoice processing and dividing it by the total number of invoices paid. The calculation does not take into account accommodation and IT/equipment costs.

The average proportion of invoices settled electronically and by cheque for the Department is:

Electronic: 91.34%

Cheque: 8.66%

Departmental Chief Scientific Advisers

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on how many occasions each Minister in his Department has met his Department's Chief Scientific Officer since 6 May 2010. [15350]

Norman Baker: The Secretary of State has met with the Government chief scientific adviser on one occasion. He plans to meet with both his departmental chief scientific adviser and chief scientific adviser on 3 November.

Departmental Driving

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many and what proportion of his Department's staff whose duties include driving have passed the advanced driving test. [14771]

Norman Baker: This information is not held centrally, however, as of 31 December 2009 the percentage of Government Car and Despatch Agency staff whose duties include driving, who have passed the Institute of Advanced Motorists course, was 45.8%.

Departmental Motor Vehicles

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the annual expenditure on vehicles of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) non-departmental public body and (ii) executive agency for which he is responsible in each English region was in the last three financial years; and what the planned expenditure is in each case for 2010-11. [12443]

Norman Baker: The requested information is provided in the table.

Information on non-departmental public bodies and a regional breakdown of spend is available only at disproportionate cost.

£

DfT organisational unit	*Notes*	*2010-11 planned expenditure*	*2009-10 spend*	*2008-09 spend*	*2007-08 spend*
DfT Central—London HQ	1				
DfT Central—Air Accidents Investigation Branch	2	37,803	36,430	36,430	30,367
DfT Central—Marine Accident Investigation Branch	2	6,800	7,279	4,849	4,418
DfT Central—Rail Accident Investigation Branch	—	27,316	28,270	18,428	18,435
Driving Standards Agency	3	625,286	1,121,804	264,788	305,311
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency	4	694,000	431,000	670,000	640,000
Government Car and Despatch Agency	5	1.4 million	2.0 million	2.5 million	1.3 million
Highways Agency	6	15.7 million	27.1 million	22.0 million	2.3 million
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	7	173,332	236,576	459,775	672,798
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency	8	1.2 million	2,011,169	1,965,890	463,723
Vehicle Certification Agency	9	—	5,574	4,138	7,186

Notes:

1. Included within GCDA.
2. Relates to leased vehicles.
3. Relates to (a) purchase and (b) maintenance costs.
4. Relates to the total cost for (a) leased cars, (b) car hire, (c) vehicle running costs, (d) minor repairs and (e) car maintenance (the DVLA does not own any vehicles). These figures also represent the total for Great Britain (as the agency does not hold such information by individual region) and to perform such an exercise would incur disproportionate costs. The increased forecast costs are due to: leasing contracts due for renewal at increased costs, introduction of new tasks, business adviser trainers numbers reduced resulting in more travelling to cover a wider geographical area, setting up of new Central Processing Unit resulting in initial additional travel costs regarding training etc. Additionally the Central Processing Unit (set up in March 2010) will result in increased travel costs of senior managers covering Swansea and Manchester Central Processing Units. The departments Corporate Assurance Services will be carrying out significantly increased numbers of External Data User Visits to ensure security. The forecast also includes leases for vehicles to replace trucks that were owned. This cost is new to 2010-11.
5. Relates to (a) purchase, (b) leasing, (c) service, maintenance and repair and (d) fuel. The table represents the expenditure for the GCDA fleet which is located in London. Included in these figures are 16 vehicles that operate out of Cardiff and Bradford, these are rotated among the fleet to level out mileage. The cost relating to these could be separated out only at a disproportionate cost."
6. Relates to expenditure on the Traffic Officer Vehicles and Winter Maintenance Fleet (except 2007-08 which relates to Traffic Officer Fleet only). The Traffic Officer Vehicle figures do not include fuel and consumables. Traffic Officer Vehicles are provided on a lease basis and the Highways Agency is charged a combined monthly fee that includes lease and maintenance. The Highways Agency is forecasting to spend £12.5 million on the purchase of new winter service vehicles this financial year, with £5 million spent to date, over the period April to June 2010. The vehicle supply contract for the new winter fleet was not awarded until January 2008 and as such, costs were not incurred under the contract until later in 2008-09 being year 1 of the supply contract. Before this Highways Agency used the old fleet which was purchased a number of years previously.
7. Relates to (a) purchase, (b) maintenance and (c) fuel in England. Further regional breakdown is available only at disproportionate cost.
8. Figures calculated include: fuel service maintenance and repair insurance premium—we have commercial fully comprehensive insurance GCDA fleet management fees capital purchases, including conversion work all vehicles have been included, e.g. Powers to Stop (PtS), High Risk Traffic Initiative (HRTI) PtS, Roadside Check vans (mobile office) pool cars

2007-08—fuel cost has been calculated pro rata using five months recorded data due to a change in how the data were captured. To calculate actuals would incur disproportionate costs. 2008-09 and 2009-10 had major capital investment for HRTI project and replacement Roadside Check vans.

9. Data for 2010-11 are not available.

Departmental Operating Costs

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he has taken to reduce the running costs of his Department since his appointment. [9818]

Mr Philip Hammond: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to the right hon. Member for Sheffield, Brightside and Hillsborough (Mr Blunkett) on 13 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 625W, in which I set out how the Department for Transport is making £683 million of savings in 2010-11, as part of the £6 billion of cross-Government cuts announced by the Government in May.

My Department is continuing to make further efficiencies through the spending review, which is due to report on 20 October 2010, in line with the Government's requirement to reduce departmental administration spend by a third by 2014-15.

Departmental Press: Subscriptions

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department spent on newspapers, periodicals and trade profession magazines in each year since 2002. [16237]

Norman Baker: Expenditure by the Department for Transport, Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, Vehicle Operator Standards Agency, the Maritime and Coastguard Agency and the Government Car and Despatch Agency, on newspapers, periodicals and trade profession magazines in the most recent years is as follows:

2008-09: £267,642

2009-10: £225,393

2010-11: £41,270 (to 31 August, where available).

Due to changes in accounting systems, expenditure for years prior to 2008-09 cannot be provided on a comparable basis without incurring disproportionate costs.

In the last year, the Department and its agencies have taken significant steps to reduce discretionary spending. This is reflected in the comparatively low anticipated final figure 2010-11.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if his Department will take steps to assess the effects on *(a)* equality of incomes, *(b)* equality of assets and *(c)* equality of access to services of measures relating to its expenditure under consideration in the Spending Review. [16355]

Mr Philip Hammond: The Department for Transport will ensure the relevant equality considerations are taken in to account in the context of expenditure under consideration in the spending review, in compliance with our obligations under the Sex Discrimination Act 1975, the Race Relations Act 1976, and the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.

Departmental Speeches

Angela Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which *(a)* (i) civil servants and (ii) special advisers in his Department and *(b)* other individuals are employed to write speeches for each Minister in his Department. [7393]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport currently employs two civil servants to write speeches and articles for four Departments for Transport Ministers. Policy officials may sometimes contribute by drafting parliamentary speeches. The Department's two special advisers may also contribute to speeches when required.

Departmental Training

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his *(a)* Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on employee training in each year since 1997. [7644]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport was formed in 2002, and is made up of a central Department and seven Executive agencies. This response covers both the central Department and our seven agencies.

I regret that the information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost for the following:

The Department for Transport, the Vehicle and Operator Services, the Vehicle Certification Agency, the Highways Agency and non-departmental public bodies, due to the data not being held centrally.

A partial response is possible for the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA), the Government Car and the Despatch Agency (GCDA), the Driving Standards Agency (DSA), and the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) for data held centrally since 2007.

Please note the following table provides data held for the agencies who commenced recording their training data centrally from 2007.

Training courses and aids

£

	Financial years		
	2007-08	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
MCA	423,833	567,253	82,265.37
GCDA	138,262	63,712	90,697
DSA	847,464	806,639	625,449
DVLA	1,876,000	1,548,000	1,265,000

Note: The data contained in this table is shown as recorded by our executive agencies. The data relates to formal training that has been logged and recorded centrally; it may not include training which has been booked and paid for locally.

Driving under Influence: Accidents

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate his Department has made of the number of people in each age group who died in road traffic accident deaths where alcohol was a causal factor in each year since 1999; and if he will make a statement. [15301]

Mike Penning: The estimated number of fatalities in drink drive accidents by age group for each year since 1999 is shown in the following table:

Estimated number of fatalities in drink drive accidents by age group, 1999 to 2008

Number of fatalities

	0-15	*16-24*	*25-59*	*60+*	*Total*[1]
1999	10	150	260	30	460
2000	10	170	310	30	530
2001	10	190	310	30	530
2002	10	190	320	30	550
2003	10	210	330	30	580
2004	20	210	330	30	580
2005	10	190	330	30	550
2006	10	200	320	30	560
2007	0	150	230	30	410
2008	10	140	220	30	400

[1] Includes age not recorded.

Note:

Estimates are rounded to the nearest 10 and therefore the rows may not add up to the total.

A reported drink drive accident is defined as being a collision on a public road reported to police in which someone is killed or injured and where one or more of the motor vehicle drivers or riders involved either refused to give a breath test specimen when requested to do so by the police (other than when incapable of doing so for medical reasons), or one of the following:

(i) failed a roadside breath test by registering over 35 micrograms of alcohol per 100 ml of breath

(ii) died and was subsequently found to have more than 80 mg of alcohol per 100 ml of blood.

Alcohol was not necessarily a causal factor in all of these accidents and there may have been fatalities in other accidents in which alcohol was a causal factor but no drivers/riders involved exceeded the legal drink drive limit. Estimates for drink drive casualties by age group in 2009 will be available in summer 2011.

The previous Government commissioned Sir Peter North to head an independent review of measures available to combat drink and drug driving. Sir Peter's report covers a wide range of issues and makes 51 detailed recommendations, which we are considering carefully with other Government Departments. We hope to publish a response to the report at the end of the year.

Driving: Information

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much the Highways Agency has spent on driver information programmes in the last 12 months. [12134]

Mike Penning: In the last 12 months (August 2009 to August 2010) the Highways Agency has spent £211,358.91 on the development of driver information programmes for road safety educational purposes, including support to various partnership initiatives.

The driver information programmes are developed and created with advice and support from experts in the industry (Police, Fire and Rescue, Department for Transport, Road Safety Great Britain). The cost quoted is for the development of the master copies. The costs of reproduction (mass copying the resources) is included in the Highways Agency's road safety initiative budget, which covers a wide range of safety interventions. Much road safety educational work has been developed in-house and with key partners at no cost.

East Coast Railway Line: Rolling Stock

Mr Tom Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans there are for use of Pendolino rolling stock for service on the east coast main line; and what assumptions were made about the availability of rolling stock when the east coast main line 2011 timetable was being prepared. [13421]

Mrs Villiers: We are aware of discussions that Directly Operated Railways have had about the use of a new Pendolino set on the east coast main line. This is an operational matter for Directly Operated Railways.

Additional rolling stock is not required for the operation of the May 2011 east coast timetable, which has been developed on the assumption that it will be operated using the existing east coast fleet.

EU Law

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will estimate the cost to his Department of compliance with regulations arising from EU obligations in the last 12 months. [6871]

Mrs Villiers: The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Fuels: Excise Duties

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department paid in fuel duty rebate to *(a)* bus operators, *(b)* train operators, *(c)* air operators and *(d)* ferry operators in each year since 2005; what proportion of the fuel duty incurred by each was accounted for by each such rebate in each such year; whether his Department plans to review such rebates as part of the Spending Review; and if he will make a statement. [13413]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport no longer pays fuel duty rebate to bus operators. In recent years, we have paid grant to bus operators in the form of Bus Service Operators Grant (BSOG). This is calculated on the amount of fuel used but is no longer linked to fuel duty rates.

Since 2008, BSOG has been paid at a rate of 43.21p per litre. Operators can receive higher rates for achieving specific outcomes, such as operating smartcard systems or Automatic Vehicle Location systems, and increasing fuel efficiency. An additional BSOG payment is made to operators of low carbon buses.

Since 2005, total spend on BSOG in England has been as follows:

	£ million
2005-06	357
2006-07	367
2007-08	398
2008-09	423
2009-10	430

The Government are considering Bus Service Operators Grant as part of the spending review. Decisions will be made, and announced, in due course.

The Government have no comparable scheme for trains, boats and planes. However, international airline fuel is not dutiable and diesel fuel for use by train and ferry operators is taxed at the rebated rate of £10.99 per litre. Tax relief is available for ferry operators. Additionally, kerosene is exempt from tax, except where it is for private use.

Heathrow Airport: Noise

Mary Macleod: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment he has made of noise levels of aircraft approaching and departing Heathrow airport. [16122]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport publishes annual aircraft noise contour maps for Heathrow which provides information on the size of the contours as well as the population within them.

This information is available on the Department's website at:

www.dft.gov.uk

M25: Road Traffic

Jackie Doyle-Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to reduce congestion at junction 30 of the M25; and if he will make a statement. [15864]

Mike Penning: All national and regional road improvement schemes with an estimated cost of greater than £10 million that are not yet in construction will be considered as part of the Government's Spending Review.

Motor Vehicles: Safety

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with *(a)* the European Commission and *(b)* his EU counterparts on harmonising EU requirements on road safety standards for child passengers in motor vehicles. [16382]

Mike Penning: I have had no such recent discussions. There are European Commission Directives aimed at establishing minimum common practice throughout the EU on the use of seat belts and child seats, which the UK implemented in 2006. These do not prevent other member states introducing further rules in their territory on top of those prescribed in the Directives, should it so wish. That is a matter for the country concerned and is not something that the Government could or would seek to influence.

Northern Rail and Transpennine: Rolling Stock

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the adequacy of railway carriage provision for passengers leaving stations in Greater Manchester on *(a)* Northern Rail and *(b)* Transpennine services; and if he will make a statement. [16304]

Mrs Villiers: The Government's proposals for providing extra capacity on rail services in Greater Manchester, formulated under the previous Administration, are being reviewed as part of the spending review. They are being tested for affordability and an announcement will be made shortly after the conclusion of the spending review.

The Office for Rail Regulation (ORR) publishes statistics on passengers in excess of capacity in National Rail Trends (NRT). These figures were updated in July 2010 for London commuter services, and will be published for other regional centres when this information is available.

More detailed crowding information on the requested services may be available directly from the operators at the following addresses:

Northern Rail Ltd, Northern House, 9 Rougier Street, York, YO1 6HZ.

Customer Relations, First TransPennine Express, Freepost, ADMAIL 3878, Manchester, M1 9YB.

Parking: Fines

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will bring forward legislative proposals to enable local authorities to have access to overseas driver and vehicle registration data to enforce parking fines. [13269]

Mike Penning: In order for legislation on matters relating to cross-border co-operation to be effective, it should be co-ordinated by the European Union. I understand that it is the Belgian presidency's intention to discuss this issue at the Council of Transport Ministers in December.

Foreign drivers are subject to the same rules as drivers from the UK. Local authorities have a range of enforcement options to target the vehicle of any motorist who consistently breaks parking laws and does not pay penalty charges to ensure that payment is secured.

Public Transport: Disability

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he plans to take to improve the provision of public transport travel advice and information for disabled individuals. [15797]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport recognises the importance of travel advice and information to enable disabled people to plan their journeys on public transport confidently and independently.

We are currently working to improve the accessibility information available to the public through the Transport Direct journey planner, to enable disabled people and people of reduced mobility to plan their journeys during the Olympic Games. This should have an ongoing legacy.

On buses, audio visual equipment is a useful addition to bus services and is especially useful to those with visual impairments. The Department has commissioned a project to research the costs and benefits of audio visuals on buses, and consider ways of increasing uptake of these systems. The project is due to report shortly.

On rail, the Department has been working closely with the Association of Train Operating Companies (ATOC) to improve the information available to disabled passengers via the National Rail Enquiry Service (NRES). During 2008-10, £500,000 was contributed to a programme of access audits for every station in the country and a detailed new station journey planner, 'Stations Made Easy', which is available on the NRES website.

Since then, the Department has continued to work with ATOC on plans to improve the Assisted Passenger Reservation Service, which disabled people can use to enquire about facilities and book journey assistance. A further £250,000 has been offered to support this project which is currently in progress.

For those who are not confident using public transport, the Department will champion increased levels of travel training by local authorities, produce a website of good practice by the end of 2010, and use the Olympic Games to raise the profile of these schemes.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he plans to take to improve access for disabled individuals to bus services serving *(a)* Coventry and *(b)* other cities. [15799]

Norman Baker: The Government believe that local bus services are vital for many people and, where possible, should be accessible to all. The Public Service Vehicles Accessibility Regulations 2000 came into force in 2000 and apply to any public service vehicle with a capacity exceeding 22 passengers used to provide a local or scheduled service in Britain. The requirements include making provision for a wheelchair space as well as fitting features on the bus to assist disabled people. The regulations require all buses and coaches, both old and new, to comply from the year 2015 (through to 2017) for buses and from 2020 for coaches.

Furthermore, the Government's commitment to protect key benefits for older and disabled people, such as free bus travel, is set out in the Coalition Agreement and the right to free bus travel for both older and disabled people is enshrined in Primary Legislation.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his policy is on the provision of travel information in multiple formats; and what steps he plans to take to implement this policy in the next 12 months. [15800]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport has led the agenda for the provision of joined-up travel information in standardised formats. In addition to the existing legislation covering the provision of information (primarily the Railways Act of 1993 and the Local Government Act of 2000) the Government's Transparency Agenda promotes the freeing up of public information to the developer community to facilitate the creation of new, innovative information services.

The Department has already released over 120 datasets on data.gov.uk, including NaPTAN (all public transport access points) and NPTDR (an annual snapshot of public transport services) and we will work with colleagues in local government and the transport industry to make more data available over the next 12 months. We believe that this will encourage new, innovative and personalised services to be launched, notably in new media such as smart phone apps, social networking and mobile internet, which will complement the existing internet, telephone and paper-based information services.

Railways: Construction

Dan Byles: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment *(a)* his Department and *(b)* High Speed Two have made of the potential of utilising and upgrading existing rail infrastructure as an alternative to the construction of a new high speed rail network. [12939]

Mr Philip Hammond: The Department for Transport's considerations can be found in the "Road and Rail Alternatives Study" published in March 2010, available at:

www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/rail/pi/highspeedrail/alternativestudy/

HS2 Ltd's remit required that it look only at creating a new alignment.

This Government believe that a high speed rail network will increase connectivity and capacity on the railway. Separately, Sir Roy McNulty's review of value for money is looking at options for ensuring public investment in existing rail infrastructure is delivered as efficiently and effectively as possible.

Railways: Fares

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has for the future of the retail price index plus 1% cap on regulated-fare rail ticket prices. [14442]

Mrs Villiers: The Government are committed to fairness on rail fares. However, some tough decisions will have to be made in the spending review which concludes this autumn. The Secretary of State has made clear that a priority for the Government will be protecting investment in the railway and therefore it would be inappropriate to rule out a review of the fare formula ahead of the Spending Review announcement. Further announcements on rail fares will be made in due course.

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations he has received from Southeastern Railway on changes to rail fares on the Integrated Kent Franchise from January 2011. [15576]

Mrs Villiers: Southeastern approached the Secretary of State to seek his approval to enter into discussions with Transport for London to add Dartford to the Oyster Pay as You Go (PAYG) system. This consent was granted. There have been no other representations on changes to rail fares on the Integrated Kent Franchise from January 2011.

Railways: Franchises

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will extend the franchise period for future train operating company franchises; and if he will make a statement. [16146]

Mrs Villiers: The Government believe that longer rail franchises will deliver enhanced private sector investment in the network and the facilities passengers want. Specific proposals for longer contracts are set out in the consultation "Reforming Rail Franchising", found on the Department for Transport website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/open/2010-28/

and which closes on 18 October.

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department took into account the past payment record of National Express in its decision to extend the East Anglia rail franchise. [16222]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport's recent decision to exercise its right to a contractual extension of the East Anglia franchise was taken in the context of ongoing work on the following:

(i) the consultation on reforming rail franchising

(ii) Sir Roy McNulty's Rail Value for Money study.

The contractual extension agreed will better enable the conclusions of the above two initiatives to inform decisions on re-letting the franchise.

Railways: Greater London

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with Network Rail on Government funding for work to upgrade railway lines in the London region owned by Network Rail. [14100]

Mrs Villiers: The Secretary of State has met Network Rail and talked, at a high level, about Network Rail's plans for upgrading the network. Department for Transport officials meet Network Rail regularly to discuss progress on their enhancement projects in the London area.

Capital enhancements are set on a five year control period - the current one being 2009-14. A number of enhancements are to be delivered over this period in London and further upgrades are planned for control period five.

Railways: Overcrowding

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what methodology his Department uses to measure congestion on trains; and what his most recent estimate is of the level of congestion on trains serving Leeds. [12768]

Mrs Villiers: Available capacity is deemed to be the number of standard class seats on the train for journeys of more than 20 minutes; for journeys of 20 minutes or less, an allowance for standing room is also made. The allowance for standing varies with the type of rolling stock but, for modern sliding door stock, is typically approximately 35% of the number of seats.

Train operators have a responsibility to allocate their available rolling stock resources to cater for patterns of passenger demand, minimising any congestion by ensuring that any crowding is not disproportionately targeted on any one service or group of services. The Department for Transport monitors train plans submitted by train operators, to verify that they are exercising best endeavours in this regard.

The Secretary of State has not made a recent estimate on the level of congestion on trains serving Leeds.

Roads: Cornwall

George Eustice: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much the Highways Agency spent on maintaining the sections of the A30 and A38 trunk roads in Cornwall in 2009. [15876]

Mike Penning: In 2009, approximately £9.1 million was spent by the Highways Agency on maintaining the strategic trunk roads in Cornwall—£3.6 million on the A38 and £5.5 million on the A30.

These figures include all maintenance expenditure on roads, verges and structures, including the design and delivery of associated infrastructure renewal schemes. Additionally it includes items such as Saltash Tunnel maintenance, Incident Support Unit provision and winter services.

Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the projected funding requirement for motorway and trunk road maintenance in each year from 2011-12 to 2014-15. [16301]

Mike Penning: The projected funding requirements for motorway and trunk road maintenance are subject to the outcome of the Spending Review.

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much the Highways Agency spent on motorway and trunk road maintenance in each year since 2007. [16393]

Mike Penning: The Highways Agency spent the following annually on motorway and trunk road maintenance in each year since 2007:

	£ million
2006-07	850
2007-08	878
2008-09	9,4
2009-10	1,307

Roads: Safety

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has for the future of the specific road safety grant; and if he will make a statement. [15467]

Mike Penning: The larger resource element of the specific road safety grant was absorbed into the general area based grant from April 2008 allowing local authorities to set their own priorities. The future of this funding after 2010-11 is being considered in the comprehensive spending review.

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects to publish the national road safety strategy. [15468]

Mike Penning: Britain's roads are among the safest in the world. The Secretary of State for Transport is considering what further action should be taken to make them safer still and expects to decide whether there is a role for a further national road safety strategy, before the current one expires at the end of this year.

Sheffield Station

Paul Blomfield: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what *(a)* guidance and *(b)* instructions his Department has issued to East Midlands Trains on arrangements for the inspection of tickets at Sheffield station as part of their responsibilities for revenue protection in their franchise agreement. [16069]

Mrs Villiers: The East Midlands Trains (EMT) Franchise Agreement includes a conditional obligation to install automatic ticket gates at Sheffield station. If gates are not installed, the franchisee is required to undertake revenue protection by way of manual ticket checks.

Stansted Airport

Sir Alan Haselhurst: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to encourage BAA to dispose of the properties in the vicinity of Stansted Airport which were purchased with a view to airport expansion. [15215]

Mrs Villiers: BAA purchased properties in the vicinity of Stansted airport as part of their non-statutory Home Owners Support Scheme to protect eligible home owners from the effects of blight and allow them to opt to sell their homes to BAA and move away in advance of any potential planning consent for a second runway.

The coalition Government have made absolutely clear that they do not support a second runway at Stansted.

However, the arrangements to which my right hon. Friend refers were private ones, entered into voluntarily between home owners and BAA. Any disposal of these properties is a matter for the airport operator.

Tourism: British Nationals Abroad

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many UK citizens were stranded abroad following failures of tour operators and airlines in 2010; and how many of them were not covered by the ATOL protection scheme. [16129]

Mrs Villiers: Information is not available in the form requested.

For the year 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010, 2,445 passengers were repatriated under the ATOL protection scheme after the collapse of their travel operators. Since April 2010 the CAA estimates that 43,000 passengers have been repatriated under ATOL.

Trade Unions

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what meetings Ministers in his Department and its predecessors had with representatives of trade unions in each month since May 1997; which unions Ministers met on each occasion, what discussions took place; and if he will make a statement. [15736]

Norman Baker: I regret that this information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

HEALTH

Aortic Aneurysm: Screening

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health by what date he expects the NHS abdominal aortic aneurysm screening programme to have been fully rolled out; and if he will make a statement. [16114]

Mr Simon Burns: It is expected that full national roll out of the NHS abdominal aortic aneurysm screening programme will be completed by the end of 2012-13.

Asthma

Stephen McPartland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to refer asthma to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence as a topic for the development of a quality standard. [15862]

Paul Burstow: The National Quality Board advises the Secretary of State on topics for National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence Quality Standard development. Asthma is one of the topics that is being considered as part of the topic selection process.

National Quality Board papers and minutes, which include information on the Board's consideration of potential Quality Standard topics are published on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Healthcare/NationalQualityBoard/index.htm

Stephen McPartland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to work together with the devolved administrations on extending the forthcoming National Audit of Asthma Deaths across the UK. [15871]

Paul Burstow: The Asthma Deaths Audit is a year-long audit of asthma deaths in England, which is due to commence in 2011. The primary intention is to understand the circumstances surrounding asthma deaths in order that any avoidable factors are identified and ways to avoid such factors are understood and addressed by those designing and providing services for people with asthma in future. These 'lessons' will be communicated to the respiratory community so that practice can change accordingly, and used to inform future policy.

This study will be undertaken in the tradition of 'confidential inquiries' which have enabled the examination of the circumstances surrounding deaths to be explored in order that changes can be made to future care. In this study, it will not only be the medical care the patient received that will be investigated, but also factors such as awareness in schools and the workplace—where appropriate, environmental conditions prevailing at the time of death, the patient's understanding of their condition and ability to self-manage, and the views of the close family of the person who has died. All these perspectives will help us to understand the circumstances surrounding the deaths, and enable the learning to feed into future policy and services for people with asthma.

We are in discussions with the devolved Administrations about whether they would like to be involved in the Asthma Deaths Audit and are actively exploring the possibility of making the audit cover the whole of the United Kingdom.

Back Pain: Health Services

James Wharton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what proportion of NHS hospitals have a spinal surgery unit *(a)* able to treat and diagnose lower back pain and *(b)* with rehabilitation expertise; [15628]

(2) how many specialist spinal surgery units within the NHS are *(a)* able to treat and diagnose lower back pain and *(b)* have rehabilitation expertise. [15629]

Paul Burstow: Information is not held centrally on the number of units within the national health service carrying out spinal surgery. All such units would be expected to have the expertise to identify patients with lower back pain who could benefit from surgical intervention, to carry out such treatments, and to have arrangements for provision of appropriate rehabilitation. Many other clinicians in the NHS are involved in the diagnosis of lower back pain, including clinicians in primary care and in specialist pain management services.

Balance North East

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether *(a)* he and *(b)* officials of his Department have discussed with NHS North East the (i) establishment and (ii) funding of Balance North East. [15566]

Anne Milton: Balance was established in 2008 by a wide range of organisations involved in people's alcohol use, including health services, police, voluntary agencies and local authorities. Balance is funded by the primary care trusts in the north-east as well as local police forces to tackle alcohol-related issues in a cross-cutting way. There have been no discussions with departmental Ministers. However, there were discussions with officials at that time and these have continued.

The Department has provided funding to each region to support the reduction of harm from alcohol at a local level. In the north-east, Balance has been commissioned, to undertake this role.

Benzodiazepines: Prescriptions

Jonathan Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost of prescriptions for *(a)* diazepam and *(b)* other benzodiazepine medications issued on NHS prescription in each of the last 10 years. [16088]

Mr Simon Burns: The net ingredient cost of prescription items dispensed in the community in England for diazepam and other benzodiazepine drugs in the period 2000 to 2009 is shown in the table.

	Net ingredient cost (£000)	
	Diazepam	*Other benzodiazepine[1] drugs*
2000	5,210.1	18,778.7
2001	4,519.3	17,279.3
2002	4,476.1	16,733.0
2003	4,369.4	16,351.3
2004	4,298.1	15,792.6
2005	6,154.2	18,479.1
2006	8,249.9	25,118.0
2007	8,670.1	37,887.2
2008	6,104.8	46,734.5
2009	7,629.2	47,371.7

[1] Benzodiazepine drugs are classified in the following British National Formulary sections: 4.1.1 Hypnotics , 4.1.2 Anxiolytics, 4.8.1 Control of epilepsy, 4.8.2 Drugs used in status epileptics and 15.1.4 Sedative and analgesic peri-operative drugs.

Source:
Prescription Cost Analysis (PCA) system

Bone Cancer: Children

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department plans to take to improve survival rates of children with osteosarcoma; and if he will make a statement. [15794]

Paul Burstow: We want to improve survival outcomes for all cancer patients, including children. It is now generally agreed that the most important reasons for lower survival rates in England compared with other European countries are low public awareness of the signs and symptoms of cancer, delays in people presenting to their doctors, and patients having more advanced disease at diagnosis.

We have asked National Cancer Director, Professor Sir Mike Richards, to lead a review of the 'Cancer Reform Strategy' (CRS). The review will align the cancer strategy with the White Paper, 'Equity and excellence: Liberating the NHS' which was published on 12 July 2010; set the direction for the next five years, taking account of progress since the CRS was published in December 2007; and show how outcomes can be improved.

Key areas for consideration will be how to increase public awareness of signs and symptoms of cancer to ensure that people are more likely to go to their general practitioner if they experience persistent symptoms, and how we can support primary health care professionals to diagnose cancer earlier.

The review will consult and utilise the experience of various CRS initiatives, existing advisory groups, cancer charities, industry and professional groups. The children and young people's cancer advisory group, co-chaired by both Mike Richards (National Cancer Director) and Sheila Shribman (National Clinical Director for Children, Young People and Maternity Services), will be contributing to the review. We aim to publish an updated strategy in the winter.

Chlamydia: Screening

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for his Department's chlamydia screening programme *(a)* in 2011 and *(b)* in subsequent years. [16027]

Anne Milton: Increasing chlamydia screening volumes remains part of Tier 2 of the Vital Signs framework. The Revision to the Operating Framework for the NHS in England 2010-11, published on 21 June 2010, stressed the need for the NHS to ensure that it continues to deliver agreed plans with no reduction in the standards or quality of services, for the rest of the 2010-11 year. A copy of the Operating Framework has already been placed in the Library.

Improving sexual health by reducing unintended pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections, including chlamydia, is very important, particularly for young people. While some progress has been made much more needs to be done to ensure people get the right information and advice to make responsible choices, and we are considering how we can tackle these issues. We also need to improve quality and value for money as the National Chlamydia Screening Programme evolves.

Later this year, we will publish a White Paper setting out further details of a new public health service and our programme for public health.

Coeliac Disease: Health Education

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information the NHS provides to people diagnosed with coeliac disease on managing their condition. [15472]

Paul Burstow: The NHS Choices website at:

www.nhs.uk/conditions/coeliac-disease/Pages/Introduction.aspx

has detailed information on the symptoms, diagnosis and treatment of coeliac disease. This information is specifically written for health professionals and those newly diagnosed with coeliac disease. The site also has information on how to ensure a gluten-free diet, with examples of foods to avoid and those safe to eat.

Dementia: Carers

Stephen McPartland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when he last met dementia carers from *(a)* Stevenage and *(b)* elsewhere; and if he will make a statement; [15818]

(2) what *(a)* financial and *(b)* other support his Department provides to carers and families of dementia patients (i) nationally and (ii) in East and North Hertfordshire Primary Care Trust; and if he will make a statement. [15819]

Paul Burstow: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has not met separately with dementia carers from Stevenage. He did attend the Fifth International Carers Conference on 9 July 2010 in Leeds, where he talked to many carers who provide support to people with a range of conditions, including dementia. The conference was also broadcast globally via Carers World radio.

The Department's Carers Grant has provided £256 million in 2010-11 to local authorities to enable them to develop innovative and personalised outcomes reflecting the needs of their local carers, including carers of those with dementia. The grant includes £2.5 million for local authorities to provide emergency cover for carers. There is also close alignment between the work of the Carers and National Dementia Strategies to support carers.

The Department has also invested £100 million in primary care trust (PCT) baselines in 2010-11 (including East and North Hertfordshire PCT) to enable them to support carers, including those caring for people with dementia. The Department did not set out how PCTs should spend their resources in 2010-11. PCTs have been given the flexibility to decide how much to invest on individual priorities in the light of their local circumstances.

Dementia: Health Services

Stephen McPartland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he last met clinicians to discuss the care and management of dementia. [15817]

Paul Burstow: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has recently met and talked to a wide range of clinicians in relation to his responsibilities. He has also met with the National Clinical Director for Dementia, Professor Alistair Burns.

Dental Services

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS orthodontists there are per head of population in each primary care trust area in England. [15924]

Mr Simon Burns: The information available centrally, which is for orthodontists employed by dental hospitals and primary care trusts broken down by strategic health authorities, is in the following table. However, most orthodontists work as independent contractors in primary care settings. In addition, some general dental practitioners also undertake simple orthodontic treatments. Information on the number of independent contractors is not held centrally but relevant information is contained in the "Report of the Orthodontic Workforce Survey of the United Kingdom February 2005", a copy of which has been placed in the Library.

Hospital and Community Health Services (HCHS): dental staff in the Orthodontics specialty—as at 30 September 2009

Numbers (headcount)

		Headcount	*Headcount per 100,000 population*
	England	550	1.07
Q30	North East	36	1.40
Q31	North West	81	1.18
Q32	Yorkshire and The Humber	55	1.06
Q33	East Midlands	47	1.06
Q34	West Midlands	50	0.92
Q35	East of England	37	0.65
Q36	London	122	1.60
Q37	South East Coast	38	0.88
Q38	South Central	27	0.66
Q39	South West	57	1.09

Data quality:

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data but responsibility for data accuracy lies with the organisations providing the data. Methods are continually being updated to improve data quality. Where changes impact on figures already published, this is assessed but unless it is significant at national level figures are not changed. Impact at detailed or local level is footnoted in relevant analyses.

Source:

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Mid year 2008 Population Estimate (2001 Census Based), Office for National Statistics

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* dentists and *(b)* orthodontists on NHS contracts there were in each primary care trust area in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [15942]

Mr Simon Burns: The numbers of national health service dentists, as at 31 March 2006 are available in Annex E of the "NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report, England: 31 March 2006". Annex E provides information by strategic health authority (SHA) and by primary care trust (PCT).

This information is based on the old contractual arrangements, which were in place up to and including 31 March 2006. This report, published on 23 August 2006, has already been placed in the Library and is available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dwfactivity

The numbers of dentists with NHS activity during the years ending 31 March 2007 to 2010 are available in Table Gl of Annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2009/10" report. Information is provided for England and by SHA and PCT. This information is based on the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006. This report, published on 18 August 2010, has been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalstats0910

These published figures relate to a headcount and do not differentiate between full-time and part-time dentists, nor do they account for the fact that some dentists may do more NHS work than others.

This measure is based on a revised methodology and supersedes any previously published work force figures relating to the new dental contractual arrangements. It is not comparable to the information collected under the old contractual arrangements. This revised methodology counted the number of dental performers with NHS activity recorded via FP17 claim forms in each year ending 31 March.

Separate information of the number of dentists with orthodontic contracts is not available. The following table gives the number of dental staff in the orthodontic specialty employed by dental hospitals and PCTs broken down by organisation. Access to orthodontic services varies between areas. We will be addressing this problem through the introduction of a new dental contract the aim of which is to improve the quality of patient care and increase access to NHS dental services, with an additional focus on improving the oral health of schoolchildren.

Hospital and Community Health Services (HCHS): dental staff in the orthodontics specialty by organisation, as at 30 September each year

numbers (headcount) and full-time equivalents

		2005		2006		2007		2008		2009	
		HC	*FTE*	*HC*	*FTE*	*HC*	*FTE*	*HC*	*FTE*	*HC*	*FTE*
	England	552	355	544	362	526	352	548	363	550	380
5C5	Newham PCT	—	—	—	—	6	6	3	3	1	1
5CQ	Milton Keynes PCT	—	—	2	2	2	2	1	1	—	—
5F1	Plymouth Teaching PCT	—	—	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
5F5	Salford PCT	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
5H1	Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	1	0	1	0	—	—	—	—	—	—
5KG	South Tyneside PCT	1	0	1	0	—	—	—	—	—	—
5M1	South Birmingham PCT	16	14	23	22	22	21	12	12	14	14
5MD	Coventry Teaching PCT	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1
5NM	Halton and St Helens PCT	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
RA2	Royal Surrey County Hospital NHS Trust	7	6	6	5	4	3	6	5	5	4
RA4	East Somerset NHS Trust	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	0
RA7	United Bristol Healthcare NHS Trust	17	17	26	24	13	13	12	12	14	13
RA9	South Devon Health Care NHS Trust	3	1	3	1	2	1	2	1	1	1
RAE	Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	5	4	3	2	6	5	3	2	5	3
RAJ	Southend Hospital NHS Trust	5	2	6	2	4	0	4	0	2	0
RAX	Kingston Hospital NHS Trust	9	6	8	7	7	6	6	5	6	5
RBA	Taunton and Somerset NHS Trust	4	1	5	2	7	4	4	2	6	4
RBD	West Dorset General Hospitals NHS Trust	7	3	8	4	8	5	7	5	6	4
RBK	Walsall Hospitals NHS Trust	3	1	3	1	3	1	2	1	2	1
RBL	Wirral Hospital NHS Trust	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	2	2
RBN	St Helens and Knowsley Hospitals NHS Trust	4	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
RBS	Royal Liverpool Childrens NHS Trust	2	1	2	1	3	2	2	2	3	2
RBT	Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Trust	—	—	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
RC1	Bedford Hospitals NHS Trust	3	1	4	1	4	1	—	—	2	1
RC3	Ealing Hospital NHS Trust	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
RC9	Luton and Dunstable Hospital NHS Trust	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	0
RCB	York Health Services NHS Trust	5	4	6	3	6	3	6	3	6	3
RCD	Harrogate Health Care NHS Trust	4	1	3	0	3	0	4	1	3	0
RCX	Kings Lynn and Wisbech Hospitals NHS Trust	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
RD1	Royal United Hospital Bath NHS Trust	3	2	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	2
RD8	Milton Keynes General Hospital NHS Trust	5	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
RDE	Essex Rivers Healthcare NHS Trust	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

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numbers (headcount) and full-time equivalents

		2005		2006		2007		2008		2009	
		HC	*FTE*	*HC*	*FTE*	*HC*	*FTE*	*HC*	*FTE*	*HC*	*FTE*
RDZ	The Royal Bournemouth and Christchurch Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	8	3	7	3	7	3	6	2	6	2
REF	Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust	2	1	3	1	3	1	4	3	3	2
REM	Aintree Hospitals NHS Trust	—	—	1	1	1	1	1	1	—	
RF4	Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust	7	2	7	2	6	2	7	2	6	1
RFF	Barnsley District General Hospital NHS Trust	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
RFK	Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham University Hospital NHS Trust	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
RFR	Rotherham General Hospitals NHS Trust	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
RFS	Chesterfield and North Derbyshire Royal Hospital NHS Trust	2	1	2	1	4	1	4	1	5	3
RFW	West Middlesex University NHS Trust	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
RG3	Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust	1	0	1	0	3	2	2	2	—	
RGC	Whipps Cross University Hospital NHS Trust	3	2	3	2	3	2	4	2	4	3
RGN	Peterborough Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	3	2	3	2	3	3	4	3	4	4
RGP	James Paget Healthcare NHS Trust	4	0	4	0	4	0	4	0	4	0
RGQ	Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust	3	3	4	4	4	4	3	3	3	3
RGR	West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust	1	1	—	—	1	1	1	1	—	—
RGT	Cambridge University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	4	2	7	4	7	4	6	3	4	3
RGZ	Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust	3	3	2	2	1	1	3	2	—	—
RH8	Royal Devon and Exeter Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	1	1	1	1	1	1	—	—	1	1
RHM	Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust	3	2	4	2	3	2	4	2	3	2
RHQ	Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	9	8	12	8	10	8	11	9	11	9
RHU	Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust	6	6	7	7	5	5	4	4	5	5
RHW	Royal Berkshire and Battle Hospitals NHS Trust	2	1	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2
RJ1	Guy's and St Thomas's NHS Foundation Trust	7	5	3	3	7	6	5	4	7	7
RJ6	Mayday Healthcare NHS Trust	4	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0
RJ7	St George's Healthcare NHS Trust	7	7	6	6	4	4	8	8	7	7
RJC	South Warwickshire General Hospitals NHS Trust	1	1	2	2	2	1	2	1	2	1
RJD	Mid Staffordshire General Hospitals NHS Trust	2	0	2	0	2	0	3	1	1	0
RJE	North Staffordshire Hospital NHS Trust	4	2	4	2	3	2	5	3	6	4
RJF	Burton Hospitals NHS Trust	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	6	3
RJH	Good Hope Hospital NHS Trust	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
RJL	Northern Lincolnshire and Goole Hospitals NHS Trust	2	0	2	0	3	0	4	1	4	1
RJR	Countess of Chester NHS Foundation Trust	7	5	7	5	6	5	7	6	4	4
RJZ	King's College Hospital NHS Trust	19	10	7	6	8	7	10	8	13	10
RK9	Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust	6	5	6	5	4	4	4	3	3	2

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numbers (headcount) and full-time equivalents

		2005		2006		2007		2008		2009	
		HC	*FTE*	*HC*	*FTE*	*HC*	*FTE*	*HC*	*FTE*	*HC*	*FTE*
RKB	University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust	7	2	5	1	3	0	3	0	2	0
RL4	Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
RLN	City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust	4	2	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1
RLQ	Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
RLT	George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust	2	0	2	0	—	—	—	—	—	—
RM1	Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital NHS Trust	6	3	5	3	5	3	6	2	7	2
RM2	South Manchester University Hospitals NHS Trust	7	6	7	6	5	5	4	4	5	5
RM3	Salford Royal Hospitals NHS Trust	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	4	3
RM4	Trafford Healthcare NHS Trust	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
RMC	Bolton Hospitals NHS Trust	2	1	2	1	2	1	1	0	1	0
RMP	Tameside and Glossop Acute Services NHS Trust	5	2	5	2	5	2	5	2	6	3
RN1	Winchester and Eastleigh Healthcare NHS Trust	4	1	4	1	3	1	3	1	2	0
RN3	Swindon and Marlborough NHS Trust	3	3	2	1	6	1	5	0	5	0
RN5	North Hampshire Hospitals NHS Trust	3	3	3	2	3	2	2	1	2	1
RNA	Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Trust	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	0	1	1
RNJ	Barts and The London NHS Trust	19	16	23	20	11	8	30	23	27	22
RNL	North Cumbria Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	3	2	4	3	4	3	4	4	4	4
RNQ	Kettering General Hospital NHS Trust	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2
RNS	Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust	2	1	2	1	1	0	—	—	—	—
RP4	Great Ormond Street Hospital For Children NHS Trust	9	8	—	—	10	9	10	9	9	8
RP5	Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	6	3	5	3	5	3	—	—	—	—
RPA	Medway NHS Trust	4	2	4	3	5	3	6	4	7	4
RPC	Queen Victoria Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	14	11	8	6	9	8	10	7	6	4
RPL	Worthing and Southlands Hospitals NHS Trust	3	0	4	1	4	1	3	0	—	—
RPR	Royal West Sussex NHS Trust	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	2	—	—
RQ3	Birmingham Children's Hospital NHS Trust	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
RQ6	Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen Hospitals University NHS Trust	7	6	2	1	5	4	9	7	9	8
RQ8	Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
RQM	Chelsea and Westminster Healthcare NHS Trust	1	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
RQW	Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	—	—
RR1	Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust		—	4	2	4	2	4	2	2	1
RR8	Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	16	16	17	16	20	19	16	15	17	19
RRF	Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Trust	5	1	5	1	5	1	5	1	5	2
RRV	University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	23	16	21	17	22	17	29	23	27	22

Hospital and Community Health Services (HCHS): dental staff in the orthodontics specialty by organisation, as at 30 September each year

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		2005		2006		2007		2008		2009	
		HC	*FTE*	*HC*	*FTE*	*HC*	*FTE*	*HC*	*FTE*	*HC*	*FTE*
RTD	Newcastle Upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Trust	9	6	8	6	10	7	10	6	10	7
RTE	Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	2	2	9	9	6	6	8	8	9	9
RTF	Northumbria Health Care NHS Trust	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1
RTG	Derby Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	10	6	9	6	9	6	7	5	6	5
RTH	Oxford Radcliffe Hospital NHS Trust	6	5	6	5	6	5	5	4	5	4
RTK	Ashford and St Peter's Hospitals NHS Trust	2	0	3	0	3	1	4	3	4	3
RTR	South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust	18	8	21	8	20	8	23	9	22	7
RTV	5 Borough Partnership NHS Trust	1	1	1	1	1	1	—	—	1	1
RTX	Morecambe Bay Hospitals NHS Trust	3	2	2	1	2	1	4	3	4	3
RV8	North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
RVL	Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	4	3	3	2	4	3	4	3	6	5
RVR	Epsom and St Helier NHS Trust	1	0	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
RVV	East Kent Hospitals NHS Trust	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
RVW	North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust	2	0	3	0	2	0	1	0	—	—
RVY	Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust	4	2	3	1	1	0	3	2	3	2
RW3	Central Manchester and Manchester Children's University Hospitals NHS Trust	3	2	6	5	4	3	4	3	4	3
RW6	Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	2	1	2	0	3	2	2	1	2	0
RWA	Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	12	5	5	2	6	4	2	1	4	3
RWD	United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust	14	6	16	7	17	6	19	8	18	6
RWE	University Hospitals Of Leicester NHS Trust	8	5	11	8	9	5	9	5	11	7
RWG	West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust	3	2	3	2	3	2	4	3	4	3
RWH	East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust	2	0	2	0	—	—	4	1	4	1
RWJ	Stockport NHS Foundation Trust	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0
RWP	Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	5	2	6	1	5	3	4	3	3	2
RWW	Warrington and Halton Hospitals NHS Trust	6	3	7	3	7	3	10	6	12	6
RX1	Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust	—	—	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	4
RXC	East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	3	3
RXF	Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	3	2	4	3	4	3	4	2	3	2
RXH	Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust	3	2	5	4	5	4	5	4	4	3
RXN	Lancashire Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1
RXP	County Durham and Darlington Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	0
RXQ	Buckinghamshire Hospitals NHS Trust	6	4	6	4	7	5	9	6	6	4
RXR	East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust	2	1	1	1	5	2	5	3	6	4
RXT	Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Trust	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—

Hospital and Community Health Services (HCHS): dental staff in the orthodontics specialty by organisation, as at 30 September each year

numbers (headcount) and full-time equivalents

		2005		2006		2007		2008		2009	
		HC	*FTE*	*HC*	*FTE*	*HC*	*FTE*	*HC*	*FTE*	*HC*	*FTE*
RXW	Shrewsbury and Telford Hospitals NHS Trust	7	2	7	2	6	2	7	2	8	3
RYQ	South London Healthcare NHS Trust	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	4
RYR	Western Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	3

Notes:
1. "—" denotes zero.
2. *Data quality* The NHS Information Centre for health and social care seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data but responsibility for data accuracy lies with the organisations providing the data. Methods are continually being updated to improve data quality. Where changes impact on figures already published, this is assessed but unless it is significant at national level figures are not changed. Impact at detailed or local level is footnoted in relevant analyses.

Source:
The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census.

Departmental Billing

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average cost to his Department was of processing the payment of an invoice in the latest period for which figures are available; and what proportion of invoices settled in that period his Department paid *(a)* electronically and *(b)* by cheque. [16166]

Mr Simon Burns: The latest available costing data are provided by the 2008-09 UK audit agencies benchmarking exercise. This shows a cost of £6.27 per invoice processed by the accounts payable function. The results are not in the public domain but are used internally to measure, compare and improve the value for money of support services across the public sector.

Analysis of payments made in the period 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010 indicates that a total of 55,166 payments were made, of which 38,047 (69%) were made electronically and 17,119 (31%) by HM Paymaster Payable Order (a cheque equivalent). All the Payable Order payments were made by the Department of Work and Pensions on behalf of the Department of Health in respect of payments for medical treatment received overseas. Payment systems are being revised so that all payments will be made electronically by the end of the current financial year.

Departmental Chief Scientific Advisers

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on how many occasions each Minister in his Department has met his Department's Chief Scientific Officer since 6 May 2010. [15436]

Mr Simon Burns: Ministers at the Department meet Chief Scientific Officer Professor Dame Sally C. Davies regularly in the normal course of business and have done so since 6 May.

Departmental Lobbying

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Christchurch (Mr Chope) of 13 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 706W, on lobbying, which organisations in receipt of public funds from his Department have made representations *(a)* directly and *(b)* indirectly to his Department on policy issues in each of the last five years; and how much each received from his Department in each such year. [15564]

Mr Simon Burns: The information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Press: Subscriptions

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on newspapers, periodicals and trade profession magazines in each year since 1997. [16226]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department's library service is responsible for central purchasing of newspapers, magazines and periodicals for library use and for retention by individual units. Total expenditure for the financial years 1997-08 to 2009-10 was:

Financial year	£
1997-98	415,890
1998-99	423,560
1999-2000	419,490
2000-01	423,160
2001-02	469,880
2002-03	356,510
2003-04	350,036
2004-05	380,025
2005-06	395,148
2006-07	350,930
2007-08	317,386
2008-09	298,022
2009-10	249,152

Departmental Public Expenditure

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if his Department will take steps to assess the effects on *(a)* equality of outcomes, *(b)* equality of assets and *(c)* equality of access to services of measures relating to its expenditure under consideration in the Spending Review. [16360]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department will ensure the relevant equality considerations are taken into account in the context of expenditure under consideration in the Spending Review, in compliance with our obligations under the Sex Discrimination Act 1975, the Race Relations Act 1976, and the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.

Departmental Secondment

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff his Department has appointed on secondment since 7 May 2010; and from what organisation each such member of staff has been seconded. [16261]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has appointed fewer than five secondees to established civil service posts since 7 May 2010. The names of the organisations from which the individuals are seconded are being withheld in order to protect confidentiality.

Drugs: Advertising

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will bring forward proposals to end statutory restrictions on the advertising of medicines. [16315]

Mr Simon Burns: No. The statutory restrictions have been agreed under European law for the protection of public health. They are designed to ensure that the public are protected from misleading advertising and that health professionals are not offered inappropriate inducements to prescribe or supply medicines.

Drugs: Peterborough

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in the Peterborough City Council area used the needle exchange facilities offered by Peterborough Primary Care Trust in each quarter since 2005; and if he will make a statement. [15382]

Anne Milton: Information on the number of people supplied with clean needles is not collected centrally, by either the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse or the Department of Health.

Safer Peterborough Partnership, the local partnership responsible for commissioning a system of local drug treatment services, including the provision of sterile needles and syringes to injecting drug users, may be able to provide more detailed information.

Safer Peterborough Partnership
Peterborough City Council
3rd Floor
Bayard Place
Peterborough
PE1 1FB

Epilepsy: Nurses

Diana R. Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) for what reason his Department has decided not to proceed with the proposed comparative study between a hospital *(a)* with and *(b)* without an epilepsy specialist nurse to be undertaken by its long-term conditions team; [13529]

(2) if he will require NHS trusts to collect data on the *(a)* costs and benefits and *(b)* outcomes for patients of the use of (i) epilepsy specialist nurses and (ii) specialist consultants treating epilepsy patients. [13530]

Paul Burstow: This Government have decided not to proceed with the comparative study.

Department officials met with epilepsy stakeholders on 1 April 2010. It was agreed that there was already good evidence about the role of Epilepsy Specialist Nurses (ESNs), as well as specialist nurses as a whole. It was also felt that effort should instead be focused on developing a business case template for commissioners to use to make the case for improving epilepsy services (including the provision of ESNs) as this would have more impact than a comparative study.

In future, outcomes, which the national health service will be expected to achieve, will be set via the NHS Outcomes Framework, and the NHS Commissioning Board will hold GP commissioners to account for delivery through the Framework.

Data on the costs and benefits, and outcomes for patients, of the use of epilepsy specialist nurses and consultants are not collected centrally. However, existing guidance published by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence emphasises the role of epilepsy specialist nurses in providing quality care.

It is the responsibility of local health bodies to ensure that they commission and provide effective services, and to look at the effective use of their work force, especially under their Quality, Innovation Productivity and Prevention programme.

Food: Safety

John Woodcock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what programmes the Food Standards Agency has to raise food safety standards in catering establishments. [16386]

Anne Milton: The Food Standards Agency (FSA) has provided printed materials and targeted financial grants to local authorities to ensure food business operators are complying with their responsibilities under the food hygiene regulations.

In direct relation to catering establishments, the FSA is working with local authorities to introduce a national food hygiene rating scheme that will provide consumers with consistent information about the hygiene standards in catering establishments. Providing information to consumers in this way will empower consumers to make informed choices and encourage caterers to raise hygiene standards.

Safer food, better business (SFBB) will provide support for small catering businesses when the FSA's food hygiene rating scheme is launched. SFBB was developed by the FSA as a practical approach to allow small catering businesses to understand food safety, put in place a simple food safety management system which should improve standards, better protect consumers and allow the business to comply with the law.

Gender Recognition: Surgery

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 9 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 656W, on gender recognition, what criteria will be used to decide when it is practicable to extend choice of treatment and provider. [16279]

Paul Burstow: Public consultation on extending choice will start in October 2010. Consultation responses will help to inform work on extending choice and what the next steps will be.

General Practitioners

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to encourage general practitioner practices to work together rather than separately in the same community. [16153]

Mr Simon Burns: The White Paper "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS" and subsequent engagement document "Liberating the NHS: Commissioning for Patients" set out our intention to devolve power and responsibility for commissioning services to local consortia of general practitioner (GP) practices. To support GP consortia in their commissioning decisions, we will also create an independent NHS Commissioning Board.

Under our proposed model, GP practices will jointly form consortia to commission the vast majority of health care required for their local population. However, GP practices will remain independent contractors and therefore able to choose who they work with locally in providing primary medical care to their registered population. Nevertheless, we believe, most practices will see the benefits from working closely within their local community to both commission and provide the best care and appropriate services for the people they serve. That is why practices will have flexibility within the new legislative framework to form commissioning consortia in ways they think will secure the best health care and health outcomes for their patients and locality.

General Practitioners: Disadvantaged

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to ensure that general practitioner practices based in areas with high levels of deprivation continue to have access to adequate funding. [16156]

Mr Simon Burns: The White Paper "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS", sets out the Government's intention that the NHS Commissioning Board will be responsible for allocating national health service revenue resources to general practitioner consortia on the basis of seeking to secure equivalent access to NHS services relative to the burden of disease and disability, and managing an overall NHS commissioner revenue limit. The Board will have an explicit duty to promote equality and tackle inequalities in access to health care.

General Practitioners: Rural Areas

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to ensure that patients in rural areas where there is only one general practitioner practice in reasonable travelling distance are provided with greater choice. [16151]

Mr Simon Burns: The White Paper "Equity and excellence: Liberating the NHS" gave a firm commitment that every patient should have a clear right to register with a general practitioner (GP) practice of their choice. Our proposals are not intended to suggest that many patients will want to choose a practice a long way from where they live. In many cases, it will make sense for patients to choose a nearby practice within a reasonable travelling distance. What we wish to end are the current arrangements that prevent people from registering with a more distant GP practice, for instance one near where they work, where they have made an informed decision that this will provide the best and most responsive service for them.

In areas where there is a particularly sparse population some patients may find they have to travel further if they wish to exercise their choice. In future, the NHS Commissioning Board will need to consider whether additional local primary care services should be commissioned where local patients are dissatisfied with access to primary care services, or to work with existing local national health service organisations to improve or reshape provision to meet the needs of the local population.

Health Services: Trade Unions

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to recognise and encourage the role of trade unions in providing private health provision for their members; and if he will make a statement. [16312]

Mr Davey: I have been asked to reply.

It is a matter for trade unions to decide what services, including the provision of private health care, they should provide their members. The Government do not wish to influence such internal union affairs.

Hospitals: Parking

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Dudley South (Chris Kelly) of 10 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 220W, what recent discussions his Department has had with hospital trusts on the effect of car parking charges on people requiring regular outpatient treatment; whether his Department has issued guidance to trusts on their responsibilities in this respect; and if he will make a statement. [15803]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has considered a wide range of views provided in contributions to the recent consultation on national health service car parking, including many hospital trusts. The Government have now published their response, which makes clear that hospitals are responsible for setting their own policy on car parking, taking into account local operational circumstances and local community interests. It also makes clear that local policies should include fair concessions for all patients whose health care needs require extended or frequent access to hospital. The response also highlights best practice guidance provided by the NHS Confederation.

A copy of the Government's response "NHS car parking: response to consultation" has already been placed in the Library.

Medical Records

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to *(a)* ensure that patients have greater access to their medical records and *(b)* make it easier for patients to change to another general practitioner practice. [16152]

Mr Simon Burns: As we made clear in "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS", published in July 2010, we will enable patients to have control of their health records. This will start with access to the records held by their general practitioner (GP) and over time this will extend to health records held by all providers. The patient will determine who else can access their records and will easily be able to see changes when they are made to their records. We will consult on arrangements, including appropriate confidentiality safeguards, later this year.

We have also given a commitment that every patient should have a clear right to choose to register with any GP practice with an open list, without being restricted by where they live; that people should be able to change their GP quickly and straightforwardly if, and when, it is right for them, but equally that they can stay with their GP if they wish when they move house.

Medical Treatments

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to ensure that there is not postcode provision for some drugs or treatments. [16154]

Mr Simon Burns: The White Paper, "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS", makes clear that we will ensure better access for patients to effective drugs and innovative treatments at a price that secures value for the national health service by moving to a system of value-based medicines pricing when the current pharmaceutical price regulation scheme expires at the end of 2013.

As interim measures, we have announced an additional £50 million extra funding for cancer drugs in this financial year and we are creating a cancer drugs fund, which will operate from April 2011.

Mental Health Services

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department plans to take to increase the level of access to long-term support of those with mental health issues. [14496]

Paul Burstow: The Government are developing a new strategy for mental health and well-being in England that is based on an alliance of government departments, local government, the independent sector, professions, communities and individuals. It will address services, outcomes from services and wider public health issues. The strategy will support the aims of "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS" and forthcoming policy on public health and social care. It will also recognise the needs of people with mental health problems as a whole, specifically the links between mental and physical health and the role of social services.

Rather than stipulating how services should be delivered at local level, our focus will be on making services patient-led, based on the best clinical evidence, responsive both to patients' choice, and their wish to manage their own care. We want the national health service to deal with the full parameters of a patient's recovery, including helping them return to work and get their life back after illness.

Our confirmation of the final £70 million instalment of growth funding from the current spending round for the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies programme is enabling primary care trusts to broaden the geographical coverage of services, meaning more people can get help, and to increase the range of therapies available, giving people more choice and access to the right psychological support.

Mental health matters for all of us, and we know that mental well-being is linked to physical health outcomes, and people's life expectancy, productivity, educational achievement and to potential reductions in violence and crime. The Government will set out their programme for public health in a White Paper on public health later this year, closely co-ordinated with the strategy on mental health. The forthcoming Health Bill will support the creation of a new Public Health Service (PHS), to integrate and streamline existing health improvement and protection bodies and functions. The PHS will aim to secure improvements in the health of the population as a whole, including, of course, the health of people with mental health problems.

Mental Health Services: Equality

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent assessment is of the incidence of racial inequality in the provision of mental health services; and whether he plans to take further steps to reduce that incidence. [16390]

Paul Burstow: The figures in the "Count Me In" census for 2009, carried out in March each year by the Care Quality Commission, provide the most recent published statistics on the ethnicity of the mental health in-patient population. We have recently announced that, in the months ahead, we will publish a revised mental health strategy. Reducing inequality is part of that strategy.

Midwives: Manpower

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many consultant midwives there were in each region in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009. [13956]

Anne Milton: The number of consultant midwives in each region of England is not identified separately.

However, numbers are available for nurse consultants in maternity services. Consultant midwives are included in the nurse consultants staff group but we cannot identify the precise numbers of consultant midwives within this staff group.

National health service hospital and community health services: Nurse consultants in maternity services and registered midwives by strategic health authority areas as at 30 September each year (England)

	Headcount			
	Nurse consultants		*Registered midwives*	
	2008	*2009*	*2008*	*2009*
England	63	59	25,664	26,451
North East Strategic Health Authority	3	3	1,331	1,382

National health service hospital and community health services: Nurse consultants in maternity services and registered midwives by strategic health authority areas as at 30 September each year England

	Headcount			
	Nurse consultants		*Registered midwives*	
	2008	*2009*	*2008*	*2009*
North West Strategic Health Authority	7	9	3,892	3,855
Yorkshire and the Humber Strategic Health Authority	10	6	2,472	2,565
East Midlands Strategic Health Authority	2	2	1,771	1,877
West Midlands Strategic Health Authority	2	2	2,850	2,918
East of England Strategic Health Authority	2	2	2,476	2,560
London Strategic Health Authority	26	24	4,785	4,866
South East Coast Strategic Health Authority	6	4	1,915	2,028
South Central Strategic Health Authority	4	6	1,735	1,783
South West Strategic Health Authority	1	1	2,437	2,617

Note:

Data Quality: The NHS Information Centre for health and social care seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data but responsibility for data accuracy lies with the organisations providing the data. Methods are continually being updated to improve data quality where changes impact on figures already published. This is assessed but unless it is significant at national level figures are not changed. Impact at detailed or local level is footnoted in relevant analyses.

Source:

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census.

Neurology: South West

John Glen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to increase the provision of ongoing physiotherapy and hydrotherapy for people with muscular dystrophy and related neuromuscular conditions in Salisbury and the South West. [16081]

Paul Burstow: The national service framework for long-term (neurological) conditions sets standards for care for people with neurological and neuromuscular conditions, including muscular dystrophy. It sets out 11 quality requirements of evidence-based markers of good practice in delivering services. It is a matter for the local national health service to commission services to meet the needs of its local population.

John Glen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has had discussions with *(a)* the South West Specialised Commissioning Group and *(b)* the South West Strategic Health Authority on the implementation of the South West Neuromuscular Strategy. [16082]

Paul Burstow: The implementation of the South West Neuromuscular Strategy is a matter for the local national health service.

NHS

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to deliver local control of health services; and what steps he plans to take to ensure that such local control is economically efficient. [16308]

Mr Simon Burns: The White Paper and subsequent engagement document "Liberating the NHS: Commissioning for Patients" set out our intention to devolve power and responsibility for commissioning services to local consortia of general practitioner (GP) practices. To support GP consortia in their commissioning decisions, we will also create an independent NHS Commissioning Board.

Under our proposed model, GP practices will jointly form consortia to commission the vast majority of health care required for their local population. This will bring together responsibility for management of care with the management of resources.

GP consortia will have a high level of freedom and more responsibility and control over commissioning budgets, but in return they will be accountable to the NHS Commissioning Board for managing public funds. The NHS Commissioning Board will hold consortia to account for both the stewardship of national health service resources and for the outcomes they achieve as commissioners.

In addition, to ensure that local services work together effectively the Government propose to establish new statutory arrangements to strengthen the role of local authorities. Local authorities will have greater responsibility in four areas:

leading joint strategic needs assessments to ensure coherent and co-ordinated commissioning strategies;

supporting local voice, and the exercise of patient choice;

promoting joined up commissioning of local NHS services, social care and health improvement; and

leading on local health improvement and prevention activity.

Under the proposals set out in "Local democratic legitimacy in health", local government will have an enhanced responsibility and a statutory duty for promoting partnership working and integrated delivery of public services across the NHS, social care, public health and other services.

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to enable clinical professionals to have autonomy in determining which services they provide to patients. [16309]

Mr Simon Burns: This Government are determined that health care professionals are empowered to use their skill and judgment to provide the best care and outcomes for their patients from the individual clinical interaction through to design and commissioning of services.

The White Paper and subsequent engagement document "Liberating the NHS: Commissioning for Patients" set out our intention to devolve power and responsibility for commissioning services to local consortia of general practitioner (GP) practices. To support GP consortia in their commissioning decisions, we will also create an independent NHS Commissioning Board, which will also be directly responsible for commissioning specialist secondary care services and primary care services which would not be appropriate to be delegated to consortia.

In addition, we published the "Revision to the Operating Framework for the NHS in England 2010-11" on 21 June 2010 setting out our intention to review the clinical relevance of all existing indicators with the removal of those that have little or no clinical relevance.

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the resources in the NHS consumed but not required in the most recent period for which information is available. [16310]

Mr Simon Burns: "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS" set out our aim to release national health service efficiency savings of up to £20 billion by 2014. This includes significant reductions to the cost of bureaucracy, including cutting NHS management costs by over 45%, and reducing the number and cost of health arm's length bodies.

However, while there is scope for improving the efficiency with which resources are consumed in the NHS, this does not mean that those resources are not required. The Government have pledged that health spending will rise in real terms in each year of this Parliament and delivery of the envisaged efficiency improvements and reductions in bureaucracy will free resources to reinvest in order for the NHS to meet rapidly rising demands and to improve quality and outcomes.

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to enable NHS managers to express their views on the management of health service provision. [16311]

Mr Simon Burns: Managers' views and experiences of working in the national health service are currently being obtained through the national NHS staff survey, run in all trusts. The survey asks questions about a wide range of issues fundamental to the delivery of quality health services, including aspects related to the management of jobs and individual NHS organisations as a whole.

In addition, NHS managers are represented on the Social Partnership Forum, which exists to bring together NHS Employers, trade unions and the Department of Health to discuss, debate and involve partners in the development and implementation of the work force implications of policy.

The Department is also running a full public consultation on components of the NHS White Paper, "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS", which spells out the long-term vision for the future of the NHS. The views of those who work in the NHS, including managers, will form much of the feedback the Department receives as a result of this major consultative exercise.

NHS Direct: Standards

Toby Perkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect on the standards of medical service delivered by NHS Direct of a reduction in the number of qualified nurses answering calls. [16092]

Mr Simon Burns: NHS Direct has no plans to reduce the proportion of calls to 0845 4647 that are answered by nurses.

NHS: Finance

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to safeguard healthcare consortia in cases where a local hospital provider is not able to keep within budget. [16155]

Mr Simon Burns: The proposals set out in the White Paper, "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS", set out that commissioners will not be expected to provide additional funding for failing providers. If a provider becomes financially unsustainable, Monitor (as the economic regulator) will be able to step in and keep essential services running.

These proposals are subject to an on-going consultation (which closes on 11 October 2010) and further details are set out in the consultation document, "Liberating the NHS: Regulating Healthcare Providers". A copy has already been placed in the Library.

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent (1) assessment he has made of regional differences in health funding; [16306]

(2) steps he has taken to ensure the equitable distribution of health funding, with particular reference to Buckinghamshire. [16307]

Mr Simon Burns: The White Paper, "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS" makes clear our commitment to the fair and efficient allocation of resources. The remit of the NHS Commissioning Board will be to make allocations on the basis of securing equivalent access to national health service services in all areas relative to the prospective burden of disease and disability.

The distribution of revenue funding to primary care trusts is based on a funding formula overseen by the independent Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation (ACRA), comprising general practitioners, academics and NHS managers. During the transition to the NHS Commissioning Board, ACRA will continue to provide independent advice to the Secretary of State on the equitable distribution of revenue funding. Further details of allocations after 2010-11 will be announced after the spending review has concluded.

NHS: Reorganisation

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what date he expects his proposals for structural change contained in the Health White Paper to take effect. [16113]

Mr Simon Burns: Chapter 6 of the White Paper, "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS", sets out the proposed timetable for our reforms. Where the reforms require legislation, this will be subject to parliamentary approval. The Department is currently consulting on the implementation of the White Paper and on the four consultation documents that followed the White Paper ("Transparency in outcomes—a framework for the NHS"; "Commissioning for patients"; "Local democratic legitimacy in health" and "Regulating healthcare providers").

We expect the majority of the structural reforms will come into effect between 2012 and 2014.

Obesity

Mary Macleod: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to tackle health issues arising from childhood obesity. [16123]

Anne Milton: The Government will be publishing a White Paper on Public Health later this year. This will set out plans to tackle obesity and the impact on health and well-being of childhood obesity.

Phil Parker Lightning Process

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations he has received on the research and development of the Phil Parker Lightning Process. [15725]

Paul Burstow: The Department has received representations, from individual members of the public and on behalf of chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomylitis stakeholder groups, on research proposals associated with the Lightning Process.

Primary Care Trusts

Mr Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what restrictions his Department plans to place on primary care trusts in respect of their ability to enter into contracts during the period leading up to their abolition. [16017]

Mr Simon Burns: There are no plans to restrict primary care trusts' statutory power to enter into contracts.

Primary Care Trusts: Manpower

Jonathan Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make an assessment of the performance in making commissioning decisions of employees of primary care trusts whose posts are sponsored by private enterprises; and if he will make a statement. [16389]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department does not hold this information.

Sex: Young People

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what peer-reviewed research studies his Department has evaluated on the extent of high-risk sexual activity by *(a)* young homosexual men and *(b)* young heterosexual men and women; [16282]

(2) whether the Health Protection Agency is undertaking research into the degree of high-risk sexual activity by *(a)* young homosexual men and *(b)* young heterosexual men and women; and if he will make a statement. [16283]

Anne Milton: In November 2009, the Department and the then Department for Children, Schools and Families published "Teenage Pregnancy and Sexual Health Marketing Strategy", a copy of which has already been placed in the Library. The document sets out the evidence from risk factors and a number of research studies to identify the groups most at risk of teenage pregnancy and poor sexual health.

The Department has also commissioned the Central Office of Information to carry out a review of the existing evidence on the factors that positively or negatively affect sexual health and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) outcomes in the United Kingdom. In addition, the Department made a funding contribution in 2008-09 to the 2010 National Survey of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles. This is the third decade in a row that such a study has been completed across the UK and it includes 15,000 men and women aged 16-74. The work outlined will help to inform and evaluate interventions designed to improve sexual health status of all people regardless of their age or sexual orientation.

The Health Protection Agency undertakes surveillance of and supports research on the acquisition of HIV and sexually transmitted infections (STIs), the results of which contribute to the development of policies for HIV and STI prevention. In many of these projects, young people are part of a wider study population. Study data are usually presented stratified by age and sexual orientation. These data have highlighted the high burden of infection, the risk of re-infection subsequent to being diagnosed with an STI and the degree of high risk sexual behaviour among young people.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Brighton

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department holds on the prevalence of sexually transmitted infections affecting *(a)* young homosexual men and *(b)* young heterosexual men and women in the geographical area closest to the area of Brighton Pavilion constituency for which information is available; and if he will make a statement. [16284]

Anne Milton: Data from genito-urinary medicine (GUM) clinics on sexually transmitted infections are collected by gender and not sexual orientation. Diagnostic rates per 100,000 population for men and women in the 15-24 year group within Brighton and Hove City Primary Care Trust (PCT) in 2009 are given in the following table.

Gender	*Rate of acute STIs[1] per 100,000 population*
Males	4,043.9
Females	4,972.3
Total	4,535.7

[1] Acute STIs: Chlamydia, gonorrhoea, syphilis, genital herpes (first episode), genital warts (first episode), non-specific genital infection, chancroid, lymphogranuloma vererum, donavanosis, molluscum, trichomoniasis, scabies and pubic lice. *Notes:* 1. Numbers of diagnoses used to compile the rates are not adjusted for missing clinic data.
2. 2008 population estimates have been used to calculate 2009 STI rates
3. Some data reported have unknown PCT of patient residence and are not included.
4. Acute STI data presented include diagnoses made in GUM clinics and in community-based settings testing for chlamydia.
Source:
Health Protection Agency, genito-urinary medicine clinic activity dataset returns, National Chlamydia Screening Programme (NCSP) returns, and non-NCSP and non-GUM returns from laboratories.

In 2008, the diagnosed HIV prevalence among all individuals aged 15-24 years resident in Brighton and Hove PCT was 0.04%. It is not possible to estimate the diagnosed HIV prevalence among young people in Brighton by sexual orientation, since the number of young men who are homosexual in this PCT is not known.

In 2009, there were 1,381 individuals with diagnosed HIV infection resident in Brighton and Hove City PCT of whom 84% (1,159/1,381) acquired their infection through sex between men. Of all individuals with diagnosed HIV infection in Brighton and Hove City PCT in 2009, 2.5% (34/1,381) were aged 15-24 years. The diagnosed prevalence for 2009 will be released later in 2010.

Social Services: Finance

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to maintain funding for social care at current levels in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12. [16050]

Paul Burstow: Announced levels of grant funding from the Department to local authorities for the provision of social care have been maintained for 2010-11. Details of funding for 2011-12 will be announced as part of the spending review.

Social Services: Learning Disability

Jim Dowd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps *(a)* his Department has taken and *(b)* he plans to take to implement the recommendations of the March 2010 report, "Raising Our Sights: Services for adults with profound intellectual and multiple disabilities", commissioned by his Department. [15933]

Paul Burstow: Departmental officials are currently looking very carefully at the detailed recommendations set out in this report and how these support our objectives to improve outcomes for people with learning disabilities who have complex needs and their families. The elements of good service and good practice examples included in this report sit very clearly within the programme of work which Government are leading to support independent living for people with learning disabilities and to support local service planning and commissioning to meet identified needs in their locality.

Trade Union Mutuality

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received on the potential contribution to healthcare provision of trade union mutuality; and if he will make a statement. [16300]

Mr Simon Burns: We have not received representations on trade union mutuality.

However, the Government have made a commitment to supporting the creation and expansion of mutualism and the greater involvement of mutuals, co-operatives, charities and social enterprises in the delivery of public services.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence in what language UK forces are training the Afghan *(a)* army and *(b)* police. [15554]

Nick Harvey: UK forces train both the Afghan National Army and the Afghan National Police using the most appropriate language, usually either Dari or Pashto, with the aid of an interpreter.

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has made an assessment of the merits of the use of electronic language translation devices by British soldiers serving in Afghanistan. [16327]

Nick Harvey: An informal assessment has been conducted on the possible use of electronic language translation devices by British forces serving in Afghanistan. The assessment found that the technology is not currently developed enough to be beneficial to British forces serving in Afghanistan.

Aircraft Carriers

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) on how many occasions Invincible-class aircraft carriers have been deployed in military service in each of the last five years; [15856]

(2) how many days at sea Invincible-class aircraft carriers have undertaken in each of the last five years. [15857]

Nick Harvey: The number of days the Invincible class aircraft carriers have undertaken at sea in each of the last five years is shown in the following table:

Number of days at sea

	HMS Illustrious	*HMS Ark Royal*
2006	123.75	33.00
2007	154	120.5
2008	160.75	147.75
2009	130.25	57.25
Up to 31 August 2010	3	117.5

HMS Ark Royal had maintenance periods in 2006 and 2009, as does HMS Illustrious in 2010.

During this period HMS Invincible has been maintained at a state of very low readiness at Portsmouth Naval Base.

During nearly all their time spent at sea, the carriers are operationally deployed in contributing to a wide range of military tasks. This includes periods when they are exercising and training, but excludes the short time spent completing basic sea safety training and carrying out post refit trials. The tasks may include the integrity of UK waters, the defence and security of overseas territories, intelligence collection, defence diplomacy and support to British interests. They contribute to the standing commitments of the NATO reaction forces and provide platforms for wider maritime security operations.

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when his Department last contacted BAE Systems in relation to his Department's aircraft carrier programmes. [15858]

Peter Luff: As members of the Aircraft Carrier Alliance (ACA), the MOD and BAE Systems are in daily contact regarding all aspects of the Queen Elizabeth Class Aircraft Carrier programme.

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the end of service date is for each Invincible-class aircraft carrier. [15889]

Peter Luff: Two Invincible Class aircraft carriers currently remain in service with the Royal Navy, HM Ships Ark Royal and Illustrious. HMS Ark Royal is currently planned to be taken out of service in the third quarter of 2014, while HMS Illustrious will reach her out of service date in the second quarter of 2016.

The future of all major equipment projects is being considered as part of the Defence input to the Strategic Defence and Security Review, to ensure that the programme is coherent with future defence needs.

Armed Forces: Health Services

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what expenditure his Department incurred on the provision of medical services for armed forces personnel in *(a)* the Falklands Islands, *(b)* Gibraltar, *(c)* Cyprus and *(d)* Germany in the latest period for which figures are available. [14073]

Mr Robathan: Costs for the financial year 2009-10 in each of the four locations are as follows:

	£ million
Falkland Islands	2.195
Gibraltar	6.809
Cyprus	21.977
Germany	87.063

The costs include service and civilian manpower, infrastructure, consumables and associated costs related to the provision of medical and dental services.

Armed Forces: Injuries

John Glen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel have been blinded while on active duty since 2000. [16394]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence publishes the numbers of personnel categorised as very seriously injured and seriously injured as a result of Operations Telic and Herrick on its website at:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FactSheets/OperationsFactsheets/OperationsInIraqBritishCasualties.htm

(Telic)

and

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FactSheets/OperationsFactsheets/OperationsInAfghanistanBritishCasualties.htm

(Herrick).

The figures are updated fortnightly. In addition, we are committed to publishing on a quarterly basis the numbers of service personnel who have suffered limb amputations as a result of injuries sustained while on operational deployment, and Defence Analytical Services Agency published figures up to 30 June 2010 in July 2010. However, in order both to protect the identities of small numbers of patients, including those who have been blinded, and to maintain operational security for the effectiveness of our protective countermeasures, we do not routinely publish very serious injury and serious injury sub-classified by other types of physical injury.

Armed Forces: Medals

Mr Russell Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will review his Department's decision that the Pingat Jasa Malaysia medal may be received but not worn in the UK. [15758]

Mr Bellingham: I have been asked to respond.

The Committee on the Grant of Honours, Decorations and Medals (the HD Committee), which advises Her Majesty the Queen on matters of honours policy, made the decision that the Pingat Jasa Malaysia Medal could be received but not worn in December 2005.

The HD Committee, of which the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) is a member, has reviewed this decision on two separate occasions and in both cases upheld the original decision.

The FCO is not aware of any plans by the HD Committee to review this decision again.

Armed Forces: Pensions

John Stevenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to bring forward proposals to remove the inequality in pension provision for ex-servicemen and women who left the armed forces before 1975. [15802]

Mr Robathan: No. It has been the policy of successive Governments not to change the provision of a pension scheme retrospectively. Any change cannot be isolated to a single scheme and would affect all of the other public sector pension schemes. It would therefore carry significant cost and simply be unaffordable.

Armed Forces: Uniforms

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what contracts have been placed with Chinese manufacturers for military garments. [16293]

Peter Luff: No contracts have been placed with Chinese manufacturers for military garments by the Ministry of Defence. It is, of course, open to MOD suppliers to place subcontracts with suitable companies, which may result in items of military clothing, in whole or in part, being manufactured overseas.

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the specifications for military garment contracts have changed in the last two years. [16294]

Peter Luff: There are approximately 6,000 specifications in the Ministry of Defence's defence clothing database. Clothing specifications are constantly being reviewed and updated to improve the performance and reliability of military clothing to ensure it is right for the armed forces.

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence who has responsibility for deciding on the criteria for military clothing standards. [16295]

Peter Luff: The defence clothing team is responsible for overseeing the development and acquisition of operational and non-operational military clothing, less flying clothing and associated equipment. The team seek constant feedback on operational clothing and equipment from the front line, which is used to improve the performance specifications with amendments being approved by representatives from the service user community. For non-operational clothing, the responsibility for specifying clothing standards is usually through uniform committees, which include service user representatives.

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment his Department has made of the appropriateness of British Standard 7209 for assessing the breathability of waterproof clothing for military personnel. [16296]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence regularly uses industry standards for measuring performance as part of its own specifications, including British Standard 7209. This is a consistent, repeatable and reproducible method of testing which is well understood by industry. This policy delivers clothing to the standard required by military personnel while at the same time ensuring best value for money for the Department.

Christopher Myers

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what briefings Christopher Myers attended during his participation in the visit to Afghanistan in January 2010. [15756]

Dr Fox: As part of the group accompanying the then Shadow Foreign Secretary and Shadow Chancellor on a fact-finding visit to Afghanistan in January 2010, Mr Myers attended some briefings with NATO and UK military and civilian staff, Afghan officials and a non-governmental organisation.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what level of security clearance was given to Christopher Myers for the purpose of his participation in a visit to Afghanistan in January 2010; [15757]

(2) who authorised the security clearance of Christopher Myers to participate in a visit to Afghanistan in January 2010. [16015]

Dr Fox: In line with usual practice for MPs and their assistants when visiting Afghanistan, no specific security clearance was provided by the Ministry of Defence for the visit.

Defence Storage and Distribution Agency: Manpower

Claire Perry: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the change in the number of jobs at the Defence Storage and Distribution Agency which will result from its proposed restructuring. [16326]

Peter Luff: Agency status was removed from the Defence Storage and Distribution Agency in July this year, when it became part of the joint support chain within the Defence Equipment and Support organisation. We are currently reviewing provision of defence storage and distribution activities as part of the Future Defence Storage and Distribution Programme; and this work will of course be influenced by the outcome of the Strategic Defence and Security Review, which will be announced in the autumn, once the Government's spending review concludes.

Defence: Procurement

Julie Hilling: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what account he plans to take of the likely effects of defence spending reductions on *(a)* BAE Systems and *(b)* other companies in the defence industry in determining the outcomes of (i) the strategic defence and security review and (ii) his Department's contribution to the Government's spending review. [15627]

Peter Luff: The priority for the Strategic Defence and Security Review is to ensure that the UK has at its disposal what it needs for its wider national security. In doing so, we are taking the industrial implications, among other key factors, into account. The Government recognise that the UK defence industry is a vital strategic asset, which is why I recently announced the publication of a Green Paper on defence industry and technology policy by the end of the year to follow on from the conclusion of the SDSR later this autumn. After a period of consultation, this will be followed by a White Paper in the spring, which will formally set out our approach to industry and technology through to the next SDSR.

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make an estimate of the effects on the number of people employed in the defence manufacturing sector and the sector's supply chain likely to result from reductions in defence spending in *(a)* Hyndburn, *(b)* Burnley, *(c)* Blackburn, *(d)* Pendle, *(e)* Preston, *(f)* Chorley, *(g)* Fylde, *(h)* East Lancashire and *(i)* Lancashire and the North West. [15985]

Peter Luff: We recognise the major contribution made to UK defence by industry throughout the north-west of England. The Department is examining a range of factors, including industrial issues, as part of the Strategic Defence and Security Review, which will conclude in the autumn in co-ordination with the Government's spending review. It would, therefore, be premature to speculate about the impact of future levels of defence expenditure.

Departmental Billing

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average cost to his Department was of processing the payment of an invoice in the latest period for which figures are available; and what proportion of invoices settled in that period his Department paid *(a)* electronically and *(b)* by cheque. [16161]

Mr Robathan: Information regarding the average cost to pay an invoice by the Financial Management Shared Service Centre and the number of invoices settled electronically and by cheque could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Information is available for the proportion by value between electronic and cheque. For the first five months of financial year 2010-11 this was 99.14% and 0.86% respectively.

Departmental Housing

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on *(a)* permanent and *(b)* temporary accommodation for civil servants in 2009-10. [14669]

Mr Robathan: In financial year 2009-10, the Ministry of Defence spent £4.1 million on permanent accommodation and £1.3 million on temporary accommodation for its UK civilian work force.

Information from overseas areas could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on *(a)* temporary and *(b)* permanent accommodation for civil servants in 2009. [14739]

Mr Robathan: For calendar year 2009, the Ministry of Defence spent £1.3 million on temporary accommodation and £4.3 million on permanent accommodation for its UK civilian workforce.

Information from overseas areas could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Press: Subscriptions

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on newspapers, periodicals and trade profession magazines in each year since 1997. [16223]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence has an enabling contract with a supplier to provide newspapers and magazines at a discounted rate to units within the London area which came into force on 1 March 2002. MOD units outside London may purchase newspapers under local arrangements. Information on expenditure under these local arrangements is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

An enabling contract has also been in place since 1 June 1999 with a periodical supplier, which MOD business units can use to place orders directly with the supplier at discounted prices. There is no central record of units choosing not to use this enabling contract; information on expenditure under any other arrangements is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Prior to these enabling contracts being in place, MOD units made their own local arrangements for the supply of newspapers, magazines and periodicals. Information on such expenditure is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Expenditure under the above enabling contracts, by financial year, is as follows:

	£
1999-2000	[1]348,617.80
2000-01	[1]837,710.72
2001-02	[1]866,656.95
2002-03	849,874.83
2003-04	854,651.98
2004-05	939,671.22
2005-06	907,100.10
2006-07	962,417.20
2007-08	871,315.45
2008-09	783,094.48
2009-10	931,595.87

[1] Figures include expenditure on periodicals only. No enabling contract was in place at this time for the supply of newspapers.

Ex-servicemen: Suicide

Toby Perkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Health on the vulnerability to suicide of servicemen and women leaving the armed forces. [16119]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence works closely with the Department of Health on issues relating to support to former service personnel with mental health needs, in particular through the Partnership Board which brings together the MOD and the four UK Health Departments. We are committed to creating effective, through-life, mental health services for our service personnel and veterans and will continue to look at ways in which the NHS, the MOD and the devolved administrations can work together with organisations such as Combat Stress to ensure that they receive the support they need.

Gulf States

Rory Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the security situation in the Gulf; and if he will make a statement. [14639]

Nick Harvey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 13 September 2010, *Official Report*, columns 581-82, to the hon. Members for Finchley and Golders Green (Mike Freer) and for Battersea (Mrs Ellison).

Pilots: Training

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what pilot training programmes pilots from the armed forces have attended in *(a)* the US and *(b)* France since 2003. [16135]

Nick Harvey: Since 2003, UK pilots have not attended pilot training programmes in France. UK pilots have attended training courses in the US, where suitable training facilities exist, for the following aircraft types:

MQ-1 Predator
MQ-9 Reaper
T45C Goshawk
F18 Hornet
AV8B Harrier
C17 Globemaster
King Air 350ER

In addition, a small number of UK pilots are regularly posted on exchange tours with US and French forces and will normally spend part of their tour training and operating aircraft alongside their counterparts.

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether pilots in the armed forces have received training from the US military on fast jet deployment from aircraft carriers. [16136]

Nick Harvey: Yes. A number of Royal Navy and RAF qualified fast jet pilots are regularly posted on exchange tours with US forces to enhance inter-service co-operation and gain additional experience. They may spend part of their tours training with and operating on US aircraft carriers alongside their US counterparts. Additionally, a small number of Royal Navy trainee pilots conduct operational fast jet training in the US on F/A18 Hornet aircraft and the AV-8B Harrier aircraft and are trained to operate from aircraft carriers.

Royal Gurkha Rifles: Finance

Damian Collins: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of the budget for the Royal Gurkha Rifles was from *(a)* his Department's budget and *(b)* other sources in the latest period for which figures are available. [16292]

Nick Harvey: The Ministry of Defence accounting systems are not set up to allow budgeting by unit. As such, a detailed breakdown of costs is not available.

A battalion of the Royal Gurkha Rifles is based in Brunei under the Garrison Agreement Exchange of Notes between the UK MOD and the Sultan of Brunei. When the battalion is physically in Brunei, the Sultan of Brunei pays for all salary and almost all basing costs.

In addition some costs of the Royal Gurkha Rifles may be funded from the Treasury reserve if additional costs are incurred when preparing for or when on operations. This figure will vary between years dependent on the extent to which the Royal Gurkha Rifles Battalions are tasked for operations.

Warships

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 13 September 2010, *Official Report*, columns 737-8W, on warships: deployment, what the *(a)* type and *(b)* mission is of each Royal Navy ship deployed on operations at sea. [16331]

Dr Fox: The type and mission of those ships at sea on 9 September 2010 are as follows:

	Ship	*Mission/type*
Op Telic		Maintenance of integrity and security of Iraqi Territorial Seas
	HMS Somerset	Type 23 Frigate
	HMS Chiddingfold	Mine Counter Measures Vessel
	HMS Grimsby	Mine Counter Measures Vessel
	HMS Pembroke	Mine Counter Measures Vessel
	HMS Middleton	Mine Counter Measures Vessel
	RFA Cardigan Bay	Auxilliary Landing Ship Dock
	RFA Lyme Bay	Auxilliary Landing Ship Dock
Arabian Gulf Tanker		Replenishment of coalition units in the Arabian Sea, Gulf of Aden and North Indian Ocean.
	RFA Bayleaf	Support Tanker
Op Calash		Counter Piracy and counter smuggling operations within the Arabian Sea, Gulf of Aden, and North Indian Ocean.
	HMS Northumberland	Type 23 Frigate
	RFA Diligence	Forward Repair Ship
	RFA Fort Victoria	Fleet Replenishment Ship
Op Ocean Shield		NATO Counter Piracy and counter smuggling operations within the Arabian sea, Gulf of Aden, and North Indian Ocean.
	HMS Montrose	Type 23 Frigate
Gibraltar Patrol		Security of Gibraltar Territorial Seas.
	HMS Sabre	P2000—Patrol Boat
	HMS Scimitar	P2000—Patrol Boat
Standing NATO Mine Counter Measures Maritime Group 1		A continuous maritime capability for mine-countermeasures integration within NATO Response Force (NRF) operations, non NRF operations and other activities in peacetime and periods of crisis and conflict.
	HMS Penzance	Mine Counter Measures Vessel

	Ship	*Mission/type*
Atlantic Patrol Tasking (North)		UK's maritime contribution to the Caribbean and North Atlantic area. Protection of UK interests, humanitarian role in response to the natural disasters, especially hurricanes, which are prevalent in this region. Additionally working alongside the US Coastguard and the Royal Netherlands Navy: a significant contribution to the UK's counter drugs operations.
	HMS Manchester	Type 42 Destroyer
	RFA Wave Ruler	Large Fleet Tanker
Atlantic Patrol Tasking (South)		The standing naval commitment to the South Atlantic and West African regions. Provide a maritime presence to protect the British sovereignty of the Falkland Islands, including South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands and UK's interests in the region.
	HMS Gloucester (desig)	Type 42 Destroyer
	HMS Portland	Type 23 Frigate
	RFA Blackrover	Small Fleet Tanker
Falkland Island Patrol Ship		Permanently stationed in the region, responsible for maintaining British sovereignty of the Falkland Islands, including South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands.
	HMS Clyde	Offshore Patrol Vessel Helicopter
Amphibious Exercises and Regional Engagement		Exercises with the principal aim of enhancing our Operational Capability by training with coalition partners in Amphibious Assault.
	HMS Ocean	Amphibious Ship
Fishery Protection		Patrolling UK's extended Fisheries Zone.
	HMS Tyne	Offshore Patrol Vessel
	HMS Severn	Offshore Patrol Vessel
	HMS Mersey	Offshore Patrol Vessel
Survey Operations		Survey operations throughout the world using the latest techniques to provide information for Admiralty charts and nautical publications and in particular updating the charts covering the waters around the United Kingdom.
	HMS Enterprise	Coastal Survey Vessel
	HMS Gleaner	Coastal Survey Vessel
	HMS Echo	Coastal Survey Vessel
UK Contingency Operations		Maritime Security Royal Navy units at readiness to react to any possible threat to the integrity of UK Territorial Seas and security of the UK.
	HMS Monmouth	Type 23 Frigate
	HMS Sutherland	Type 23 Frigate
	HMS Ramsey	Mine Countermeasures Vessel
	HMS Blythe	Mine Countermeasures Vessel
	RFA Fort George	Fleet Replenishment ship

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Emissions: Local Government

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will take steps to ensure that local authorities encourage residents to participate in the implementation of local carbon reduction plans. [16025]

Gregory Barker: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 9 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 649W.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will take steps to provide financial and technical assistance for local authorities to meet local carbon reduction targets. [16026]

Gregory Barker: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 9 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 649W.

Carbon Emissions: Public Sector

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to ensure other Government departments, agencies and non-departmental public bodies are reducing their carbon emissions and using energy more efficiently. [16376]

Gregory Barker: On 14 May my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister set a challenging target of reducing central Government's emissions by 10% in 12 months and asked DECC and the Efficiency and Reform Group to lead this work. Since then, all Departments have submitted their plans for action, detailing how they will contribute towards the target. All ministerial headquarters buildings are now also placing their real time energy use data on line.

In order to learn from private sector experience, I have established a cross-Whitehall 10% Working Group, which will hold Departments to account for their progress, and has created a network for sharing good practice and experiences between Departments and the private sector.

In addition, all Government Departments, and many other public sector bodies, are currently registering for the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme, which will help to ensure that energy efficiency is prioritised in the public sector.

Departmental Billing

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the average cost to his Department was of processing the payment of an invoice in the latest period for which figures are available; and what proportion of invoices settled in that period his Department paid *(a)* electronically and *(b)* by cheque. [16163]

Gregory Barker: Invoice processing is provided to the Department by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. In August 2010 the average cost of processing an invoice including staff costs and overheads was £4.29. All payments made in August were made electronically.

Departmental Chief Scientific Advisers

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on how many occasions each Minister in his Department has met his Department's Chief Scientific Officer since 6 May 2010. [15434]

Gregory Barker: Ministers regularly meet DECC's Chief Scientific Adviser in the course of their official duties.

Departmental Contracts

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the monetary value is of contracts his Department has awarded to each *(a)* management consultancy and *(b)* IT company since 7 May 2010. [16186]

Gregory Barker: Central records indicate, that the monetary value of contracts awarded by the Department of Energy and Climate Change to management consultancy and IT companies since 7 May 2010 is as follows:

	£
(a) Management consultancy	
Total	76,720
Capita Symonds Ltd.	15,495
COI Communications	7,360
International Organisation Development Ltd.	2,221
Methods Consulting Ltd.	26,550
Pera Innovation Ltd.	12,058
Serco Ltd.	13,034
(b) IT company	
Total	162,000
Oracle	162,000

Departmental Empty Property

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the estimated monetary value is of each vacant *(a)* building and *(b)* parcel of land owned by his Department in each region. [16250]

Gregory Barker: The Department of Energy and Climate Change does not own any land or buildings. The buildings occupied by the Department are owned by other departments.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department spent on hospitality for events hosted by each Minister in the Department in each of the last three years. [13476]

Gregory Barker: Information for earlier years is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Since July 2010, updated processes have been developed for monitoring budget and accounting lines in an effort to deliver transparency and a centralised record of such activity.

For July 2010, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave today to the hon. Member for Dudley North (Ian Austin) to question No. 15150.

For August and September 2010, total spend was £3,748.24 across three events with key stakeholders.

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department spent on hospitality for events hosted by each Minister in his Department in July 2010. [15150]

Gregory Barker: The total spend of ministerial hospitality in July 2010 was £2,984.32 on five events with key stakeholders.

Departmental Press: Subscriptions

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department spent on newspapers, periodicals and trade profession magazines in each year since 2008. [16239]

Gregory Barker: Since the Department's formation in October 2008, Ministers and the Communications Directorate have spent the following amounts on newspapers and periodicals:

2008-09 (from October 2008): £5,846;

2009-10: £19,020;

2010-11 (as of 31 August): £6,436.

The Department does not keep central records of all publications that it receives and this information can be provided only at disproportionate costs.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if his Department will take steps to assess the impacts on *(a)* equality of incomes, *(b)* equality of assets and *(c)* equality of access to services of measures relating to its expenditure under consideration in the Spending Review. [16347]

Gregory Barker: DECC will ensure the relevant equality considerations are taken in to account in the context of expenditure under consideration in the Spending Review, in compliance with our obligations under the Sex Discrimination Act 1975, the Race Relations Act 1976, and the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.

Departmental Redundancy Pay

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what severance payments have been paid to *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* special advisers in his Department who left office after the last general election. [14927]

Gregory Barker *[holding answer 16 September 2010]:* Details of the total severance payments paid to DECC Ministers who left office after the last general election were given by my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office to the hon. Member for Perth and North Perthshire (Pete Wishart) on 5 July 2010, *Official Report,* column 55W. However, DECC was not included in that report.

Severance payments for paid Government Ministers and other office holders are governed by legislation, specifically section 5 of the Ministerial and other Pensions and Salaries Act 1991. Those individuals who leave office under the age of 65 and who do not take up another relevant office within three weeks (six weeks for Opposition office holders at the time of the election) are entitled to receive one-quarter of their annual claimed salary as a severance payment. These are separate from resettlement grants available to members of Parliament upon leaving the House of Commons.

Total severance payments to eligible former Ministers of the Department of Energy and Climate Change were £40,350.

The Government publish annually the total cost of special advisers in the form of a written ministerial statement by the Prime Minister. The total cost of severance paid out to special advisers who left office after the last general election will be published in due course.

Departmental Secondment

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many staff his Department has appointed on secondment since 7 May 2010; and from what organisation each such member of staff has been seconded. [16257]

Gregory Barker: The Department for Energy and Climate Change has recruited five staff on secondment since 7 May 2010. The details are shown as follows.

Organisation	*Number of staff*
Climate Change Capital	1
National Grid	1
Expedition Engineering	1
KPMG	1
Deloitte	1
Total	5

Fuel Poverty

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will make it his policy to target energy efficiency programmes at prepayment meter users in, or at risk of, fuel poverty. [16124]

Gregory Barker: Government are committed to helping those households who are in fuel poverty. We recognise the need to help more of the most vulnerable to keep their homes warm at an affordable cost.

Government have a range of policies focused on improving the energy efficiency of households, including those in fuel poverty. We recently extended the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) to 2012 and increased significantly the amount of work to be carried out in the most vulnerable households.

Following the introduction of new rules to prevent unfair price differentials, Ofgem have recently reported that the differentials between customers paying by prepayment meter (PPM) and standard credit have been completely eliminated.

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will use his power under the Energy Act 2010 to oblige suppliers to provide social price support to *(a)* all groups that qualify for cold weather payments and *(b)* households in receipt of means-tested benefits with children under 16 years. [16125]

Gregory Barker: Decisions on whether or not to use the powers in the Energy Act 2010 to bring forward mandated social price support will be subject to the Spending Review.

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans he has to ensure the take up of the Green Deal in the private rented sector. [16126]

Gregory Barker: The Green Deal should unlock billions of pounds of new investment in household energy efficiency. It has the potential to be particularly successful in the private rented sector because it will remove the up-front costs of making homes more energy efficient for tenants, which are currently a significant deterrent to landlords upgrading rented-out property.

To maximise efficiency improvements across all tenures, the Department is looking at additional incentives and triggers that will encourage uptake of the Green Deal.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many and what proportion of *(a)* private sector and *(b)* social sector dwellings have residents in fuel poverty in (a) England and (b) the geographical area most close to the area of Brighton Pavilion constituency for which information is available. [16281]

Gregory Barker: In 2007 there were 2.8 million fuel poor households in England, representing around 13% of all households. 2.3 million of these were private sector households (13% of all private households) and 0.5 million were in the social sector (13% of all social households).

In 2006 the most recent year for which sub-regional figures are available, there were around 5,100 (12%) fuel poor households in the Brighton Pavilion constituency. A split by tenure is not available for this figure.

Industrial Diseases: Compensation

Toby Perkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much has been paid to miners in Chesterfield constituency under the Government's handling agreements for vibration white finger, bronchitis and emphysema since their inception. [16428]

Charles Hendry: The amount the Department has paid to claimants in Chesterfield constituency for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and vibration white finger under the Coal Health Compensation Schemes is shown in the following table as at 31 August 2010.

	Total claims received	*Total claims settled*	*Total claims outstanding*	*Total damages paid (£)*
COPD	4,269	4,268	1	12,421,068.75
VWF	1,882	1,882	0	21,120,669.35
Total	6,151	6,150	1	33,541,738.10

Magnox Electric

Richard Graham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions his Department has had with Magnox North Ltd and Magnox South Ltd on the formation of a single site licence company; and by what date he expects legal integration of the two to have been achieved. [15952]

Charles Hendry: This is an operational matter for the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA), which owns the Magnox sites. The NDA has been liaising with Magnox North-Ltd and Magnox South Ltd on their reintegration into a single-site licence company (SLC). Reintegration of the two SLCs is a key part of the overall plan of the parent body organisation, EnergySolutions, which owns the SLCs, to reduce the-costs of managing the sites on behalf of the NDA and to ensure that more money is spent on front-line activities. The programme aims for relicensing into a single SLC to be complete by the end of 2010.

Richard Graham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the cost to the public purse was of dividing Magnox Electric into Magnox North Ltd and Magnox South Ltd. [15955]

Charles Hendry: The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority estimates that the total costs of separating Magnox Electric into two site licence companies (SLCs) were approximately £6.4 million. Reintegration of the two SLCs is a key part of the overall strategy of the parent body organisation, EnergySolutions, which owns the SLCs, to reduce the costs of managing the sites on behalf of the NDA. It is estimated that reintegration will deliver net savings of around £10 million per year.

National Grid: Fees and Charges

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the average national grid transmission charge is in each local authority area. [13509]

Charles Hendry: Transmission charging zones do not correspond with local authority boundaries and therefore it is not possible to give an average figure for each local authority area. Details of the different charges for each generation and demand charging zone can be found on national grid's website at:

http://www.nationalgrid.com/NR/rdonlyres/B757A2EA-CEEA-4A37-B9CA-91A0F0C68C5F/40465/UoSCI6R0Final.pdf

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much has been raised in national grid transmission charges from generators in *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland and *(c)* Wales in each of the last five years. [13512]

Charles Hendry: National Grid does not have separate figures for England and Wales. Transmission Network Use of System charges paid by generators in England/Wales and Scotland are:

		£ million
	England/Wales	*Scotland*
2005-06	159.0	126.8
2006-07	188.5	128.8
2007-08	200.9	141.0
2008-09	231.4	147.9
2009-10	232.1	156.9

Source:
National Grid

Natural Gas: Storage

Edward Miliband: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when his Department plans to take steps to provide greater gas storage capacity for the UK. [13971]

Charles Hendry: As set out in the Annual Energy Statement, we need more gas storage capacity, as well as more gas import capacity and greater assurance that our market will deliver gas when it is needed. The Department has already taken steps to encourage greater gas storage capacity for the UK.

On 9 September, I gave consent to the Saltfleetby gas storage project. This has the capacity to store some 700 million cubic meters of gas and to increase the UK's storage capacity by over 15%.

Further, as set down in the recent written ministerial statement about planning reform by the Minister of State, Department for Communities and Local Government, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tunbridge Wells (Greg Clark), the Government are reforming the planning system. Planning applications for major infrastructure projects will be decided by Ministers within a clear policy framework provided in national policy statements, on the basis of recommendations by the new major infrastructure planning unit. This will make major infrastructure decisions, such as for new gas storage facilities, faster and more transparent.

Gas storage facilities will also be encouraged through new measures to be introduced in the Energy Security and Green Economy Bill.

Nuclear Decommissioning Authority

Richard Graham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what consideration he has given to the merits of entitling the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority to deal directly with site licence companies rather than through a parent body organisation; and if he will make a statement. [15953]

Charles Hendry: The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority deals with both its site licence companies (SLC) and with their parent body organisations (PBO). Each of the sites under NDA ownership is operated for the NDA under a management and operations contract by a site licensee (SLC), which is responsible for the delivery of site programmes until all decommissioning and clean-up work has been completed. Each site licensee has a PBO, which owns the shares in that SLC and manages its activities for the period in which it has a parent body agreement with the NDA. These PBO contracts are competed. The relationship between the NDA and the SLC is long term and continues irrespective of who owns the SLC.

Richard Graham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority since its formation. [15954]

Charles Hendry: The Department closely monitors the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority's (NDA) performance through regular reports and meetings, including between DECC Ministers and the NDA's chairman and chief executive officer. The NDA is required by the Energy Act 2004 to have a ministerial approved strategy and annual business plans. These, together with reports on its progress to date are available on the NDA's website.

Before the NDA was set up in 2005 there was little investment in the legacy infrastructure or progress with decommissioning. Starting from a zero base, in its first five years the NDA has made significant progress in tackling the unprecedented challenge that it faces. It has:

> developed a detailed understanding of the legacy, introduced industry-wide procedures across its sites to plan on a consistent basis and completed the re-structuring of its estate to facilitate its competition programme;
>
> successfully completed competitions for the management of the low level waste facility near Drigg; and for Sellafield — one of the largest and most complex procurements in the world. These have brought international capability to the UK and the new management teams are bringing significant improvements in operational efficiency, project management and cost control;
>
> made significant headway in realising value from its commercial operations;
>
> progressively prioritised funds towards highest hazards; delivered value for money by driving efficiency and performance across its estate and invested in skills to build the future capability of the UK's nuclear work force; and
>
> made steady progress on decommissioning in line with its published business plans.

Nuclear Power Stations: Safety

Richard Graham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what hazard reduction work he commissioned Magnox Electric to undertake in each year between its establishment and its separation into two companies in 2008. [16110]

Charles Hendry: This is an operational matter for the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA), which took over responsibility for the Magnox sites on 1 April 2005. These sites are operated for the NDA under a management and operations contract with the site licence company, Magnox Electric. The NDA agrees work plans annually with Magnox Electric, including work on hazard reduction. Details of the work commissioned from each Magnox site are set out in the NDA's Annual Plans. Performance against these plans is set out in the NDA's Annual Report and Accounts. These documents are published and are available on the NDA's website.

Renewable Energy: Local Government

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much national grid transmission charges for selling renewable electricity to the grid would be for *(a)* Westminster City Council, *(b)* Western Isles Council (Comhairle nan Eilean Siar) and *(c)* Angus Council. [13510]

Charles Hendry: Transmission Network Use of System (TNUoS) charges are paid by renewable generators—over 100 MW—only most renewable generators are connected to the distribution system and are not subject to TNUoS charges.

Westminster city council falls in the central London generation charging zone where the generation TNUoS charge is -£6.41/kW.

Tariffs for the Western Isles council (Comhairle nan Eilean Siar) have not yet been set. The nearest equivalent generation charging zone is Western Highland and Skye where the generation TNUoS charge is £22.79/kW.

Angus council falls in the Central Highlands charging zone where the generation TNUoS charge is £17.63/kW.

Ofgem announced a fundamental review of the transmission charging regime on 22 September with the launch of Project TransmiT.

Sustainable Development

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent meetings he has had with representatives of Transition Town projects to discuss environmentally sustainable communities. [14887]

Gregory Barker: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has not met with representatives of Transition Town projects. Ministers have, however, been meeting a number of community groups as they are important for the Green Deal. I attended the Be Birmingham Summit in July and will continue meeting community groups over the coming months.

Wind Power: Electricity Generation

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effects on potential windfarm developers of the decision by the National Grid to retain the current charging regime for electricity generators; and what recent discussions he has held with Ofgem on the matter. [15098]

Charles Hendry: National Grid have made no recent decisions on the transmission network use of system (TNUoS) charging regime for generators, but are currently considering the responses to a consultation on a review of intermittent generation charging. DECC's recent Annual Energy Statement also announced that Ofgem will shortly be conducting their own independent review of the transmission charging regime.

Wind Power: Offshore Industry

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he plans to review guidance on the provision of financial community benefits compensation from large-scale off-shore wind farms over 50MWh; and whether he plans to bring forward proposals to enable local planning authorities to secure and enforce the provision of such financial community benefits compensation. [15329]

Charles Hendry: We recognise the need to ensure that all major infrastructure renewable energy developments take place within the formal planning procedure, which allows all relevant stakeholders, including local authorities and members of the public, to put forward their views on the likely impact of any proposal on the environment and the local community. Any development of renewable energy must also be seen within the wider context of reducing carbon emissions and improving security of the energy supply.

Offshore wind farm developers can and do finance community benefits for local communities and that is a commercial matter for them. Guidance was produced several years ago by the Renewables Advisory Board on this matter. There are no plans to enable local authorities to secure and enforce the provision of such financial community benefits compensation.

The UK has the best offshore wind resource in Europe and we are committed to ensuring that the UK benefits from industry and job prospects from this opportunity.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departmental Contracts

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the monetary value is of contracts his Department has awarded to each *(a)* management consultancy and *(b)* IT company since 7 May 2010. [16174]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is as follows:

(a) The monetary value of all management consultancy contracts awarded since 7 May 2010 is £134,503.

In the period 7 May 2009 to 20 September 2009 the total value of all management consultancy contracts was £6,029,698.

(b) No new IT contracts have been awarded since 7 May 2010.

Departmental Empty Property

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the estimated monetary value is of each vacant *(a)* building and *(b)* parcel of land owned by his Department in each region. [16242]

Chris Grayling: The Department for Work and Pensions does not have any vacant buildings or any vacant parcels of land.

Departmental Fines

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many transport-related fines his Department has settled on behalf of its staff in each year since 2005; and what the cost to the public purse was in each year. [13303]

Chris Grayling: The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has paid the following amounts to settle transport-related fines incurred by DWP staff since 2005:

	Number	*Amount (£)*
2004-05[1]	106	2,757.50
2005-06[1]	464	15,740
2006-07	343	12,585.25
2007-08	98	6,298.13
2008-09	217	10,713.00
2009-10	403	23,951.00

[1] No figures are available prior to 1 May 2006 for hire vehicles.

The figures in the table represent fines incurred by DWP staff driving DWP official fleet vehicles and hire vehicles on departmental business. These figures should be taken in the context of a Department that employs 106,000 staff.

The Department's policy in relation to payment of fines is in the process of being reviewed.

Departmental Press: Subscriptions

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department spent on newspapers, periodicals and trade profession magazines in each year since 2001. [16233]

Chris Grayling: Information on the amount spent in each financial year from 2001 onwards is set out in the following table.

£

Financial year	*Newspaper/ magazine spend*	*Periodical spend*
2001-02	24,757.96	228,207.11
2002-03	[1]—	314,328.85
2003-04	[1]—	266,764.89
2004-05	54,298.68	164,068.43
2005-06	66,265.94	122,040.63
2006-07	73,794.25	134,642.74

£

Financial year	*Newspaper/ magazine spend*	*Periodical spend*
2007-08	56,364.35	138,063.72
2008-09	33,215.84	97,927.92
2009-10	26,928.58	96,011.27

[1] Included in periodical spend.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if his Department will take steps to assess the impacts on *(a)* equality of incomes, *(b)* equality of assets and *(c)* equality of access to services of measures relating to its expenditure under consideration in the Spending Review. [16361]

Chris Grayling: Work is under way to carry out equality impact assessments as part of the development of Spending Review options, and these will be made public in due course.

Employment Schemes: Coventry

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what assistance his Department is providing to those resident in Coventry who have been made redundant on the last 12 months; [16289]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to assist those resident in Coventry and in receipt of jobseeker's allowance to secure employment; [16286]

(3) what steps his Department is taking to assist those resident in Coventry who have been in receipt of jobseeker's allowance for more than 12 months to secure employment. [16287]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what assistance his Department is providing to those resident in Coventry who have been made redundant in the last 12 months. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The Rapid Response Service (RRS) is the starting point for all support for residents in Coventry, who have been made redundant. Jobcentre Plus works with partners to deliver the RRS while employees are under notice of redundancy with the aim of helping as many as possible back into work quickly. The service is offered automatically to all employers declaring at least 20 redundancies (i.e. all those covered by the statutory requirement to provide advance notice to the Insolvency Service). The service is also offered when Jobcentre Plus is aware of employers declaring less than 20 redundancies.

Individual employees are offered a comprehensive package of practical support in coping with redundancy, claiming benefits, applying for jobs and updating their skills or gaining new skills based on the needs of the local labour market.

Jobcentre Plus works closely with the Better West Midlands Project, contracted to the Skills Funding Agency to deliver RRS support for individual employees under notice of redundancy. Other partners are: Coventry City Council, Business Link, National Apprenticeship Service, Consumer Financial Education Body and Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire Partnership offering the Next Step careers advice service to individuals. All customers are able to continue accessing these partners' services after redundancy if they are unable to move into a new job immediately.

Individual customers who have been made redundant are also able to take advantage of the Response to Redundancy Programme, delivered by JHP Training on behalf of the Skills Funding Agency. JHP Training delivers a range of training opportunities to any unemployed people aged over 18 who are seeking work during the first six months of unemployment. A package of support, typically between 2 and 8 weeks, helps people refresh their existing skills or begin the work of retraining in a different occupation to aid their progression into sustainable employment.

The Secretary of State has also asked me to reply to your further questions asking what assistance his Department is providing to those resident in Coventry and in receipt of Jobseeker's Allowance, including those in receipt of Jobseeker's Allowance for more than 12 months, to secure employment.

All customers can use jobpoint screens in Jobcentres or the Jobseeker Direct telephony service to search for suitable job vacancies as well as accessing them via the internet if they prefer.

Residents of Coventry in receipt of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) receive personalised help through the Jobseeker's Regime and Flexible New Deal. Jobcentre Personal Advisers are at the forefront of supporting customers with their employment and skills needs.

The Jobseeker's Regime and Flexible New Deal is a combination of regular reviews of a customer's job seeking activity, group information sessions, Personal Adviser interviews at key stages and work focused training. Through this, we provide customers with information and access to jobs, personalised job search advice, opportunities to develop the skills needed to help them improve job prospects and other help to overcome barriers that may be making it harder to find work. The level of support we give increases the longer a customer is out of work.

Newly unemployed JSA customers from professional and executive occupational backgrounds who require help because they have no recent job search experience can attend information sessions delivered by the Recruitment and Employment Confederation. These sessions help jobseekers to acquire the knowledge, skills and confidence to quickly find relevant jobs, using up to date job search tools and recruitment channels.

Jobseekers who remain on JSA for more than 12 months enter Flexible New Deal which is a programme of tailored, individualised support for each customer delivered by a contracted external provider. Flexible New Deal providers are tasked with providing an innovative and flexible service to deliver the best method of getting jobseekers into sustainable employment. Our contracted providers in Coventry are Serco and Pertemps People Development Group.

Jobseekers in Coventry who need additional advice about the local labour market and the skills required can access individual careers advice from Next Steps advisers who are located in Jobcentre offices as well as other locations in the city.

The Government have set out a number of major welfare to work reforms, including a core Work Programme which we aim to introduce by summer 2011. It will be an integrated package of personalised support providing help for people who find themselves out of work. The Work Programme will be delivered by contractors drawn from the private, public and voluntary sectors.

Employment Schemes: Young People

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he made of the annual cost to the Exchequer of continuing the Young Person's Guarantee. [15897]

Chris Grayling: The spend on the young person's guarantee in 2009-10 was £86 million. The forecast spend in 2010-11 is expected to be £471 million. The forecast spend in 2011-12 is subject to spending review decisions. This is because the FJF payment model allows for 60% of the unit cost of an FJF job to be paid over the six-month period following a job start. We have made commitments to allow job starts up to the end of March 2011 so expenditure will continue to September 2011. This makes a total predicted spend of £595 million.

There are no plans to continue the young person's guarantee beyond April 2011.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to assist those aged 18 to 24 years and who are unemployed to secure employment. [16288]

Chris Grayling: The Government are committed to tackling youth unemployment. Young unemployed people registering with Jobcentre Plus have access to a named personal adviser from the first day of their claim. The personal adviser works with them to create a personalised back-to-work plan. This support will continue throughout the jobseeker's spell of unemployment as will access to the existing range of opportunities, support and advice to help them find employment. This includes short periods of work experience, mentoring, work-focused training, and internships.

Next year we will introduce our Work Programme. This will offer integrated employment support to young people. The programme will help them move into sustained employment rather than temporary jobs.

Employment: Young People

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will take steps to help young people from households in receipt of benefits into sustained employment; what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effects on young people's likelihood of securing sustained employment of parental receipt of benefits; and if he will make a statement. [14110]

Chris Grayling: Young people aged 16 and over who are on a low income, looking for work, disabled or caring for a child or older person can claim benefits in their own right. The Department supports all benefit recipients, including young people, to make the transition into employment.

Young unemployed people registering with Jobcentre Plus have access to a named personal adviser from the first day of their claim. The personal adviser works with them to create a personalised back-to-work plan. This support will continue throughout the jobseeker's spell of unemployment as will access to the existing range of opportunities, support and advice to help them find employment. This includes short periods of work experience, mentoring, work-focused training, and internships. Next year we will introduce our Work Programme. This will offer integrated employment support to young people. The programme will help them move into sustained employment rather than temporary jobs.

The Department has not commissioned any research specifically focusing on the effects of parental receipt of benefits on young people's likelihood of securing sustained employment. Nor has any internal research been undertaken on this specific topic.

Fuel Poverty: Chronically Sick

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what financial support his Department provides for terminally ill people in fuel poverty. [13724]

Steve Webb: The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) currently have the governmental lead on fuel poverty. Their main grant-funded programme is the Warm Front scheme, which can provide a package of tailored insulation and heating improvements and energy advice for private sector households across England. The scheme is aimed at vulnerable, fuel-poor households, some of whom may be terminally ill. Eligibility is determined by receipt of certain means-tested and disability benefits, including disability living allowance (DLA). The number of disabled people receiving Warm Front assistance has increased since 2005—typically, approximately 38% of all those receiving help are in receipt of either DLA or attendance allowance (AA).

DLA and AA provide people who have severe disabilities with a contribution towards the extra costs they face because of the effects of their disabilities. People who are terminally ill automatically qualify for the highest rate care component of DLA (they do not have to serve the three-month qualifying period and the benefit is usually paid within 10 days from receipt of claim) or the higher rate of AA. Recipients of DLA or AA have the choice to spend their benefit according to their own priorities, and in a way that best suits their circumstances, including meeting the cost of household fuel.

Terminally ill people may also receive support through employment and support allowance (ESA). While ESA for the most part uses functional descriptors to assess someone's eligibility for the benefit, there are some non-functional descriptors that would find someone eligible—terminal illness is one of these non-functional descriptors. If someone claims ESA under 'special rules', which apply to those who have a life expectancy of no more than six months, they will be fast-tracked to the ESA Support Group and receive the highest rate of benefit. This will be done on paper-based evidence alone without the claimant having to undergo a face-to-face medical assessment or serve any of the normal assessment phase of ESA.

Additional help is available to people receiving any of the income-related benefits through the disability premiums included in these benefits. Cold weather payments are also available to help certain vulnerable people—including those receiving the main phase of income-related ESA or disability premiums in the income-related benefits—with the extra heating costs which result from very cold weather in their area.

Housing Benefit

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate has been made of the number of households affected by the proposed increase in non-dependent deductions *(a)* in total, *(b)* in Stretford and Urmston constituency, *(c)* which include one or more pensioners and *(d)* which include one or more children under the age of 18 years. [15544]

Steve Webb: This information is not available.

From February 2007, DWP has been collecting more detailed housing benefit and council tax benefit data electronically from local authorities. Over time this will improve the accuracy, timeliness and level of detail available in the published statistics, as the information supplied is quality assured.

At present, the management information used to estimate the number of households affected by the proposed change to non-dependant deductions has not been sufficiently quality assured to release.

We shall publish an equality impact assessment for the June Budget change to non-dependant deductions to accompany the relevant legislation when introduced in Parliament. The equality impact assessment will provide information on the total number of people affected by this measure subject to quality assurance, and will also cover the impacts on age, families, child poverty, gender, disability and race.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will bring forward proposals for changes to housing benefit arrangements to protect the most vulnerable people. [16028]

Steve Webb: We have provided a substantial increase in the Discretionary Housing Payments budget which will give local authorities the flexibility to give additional support to customers who are affected by our proposals for housing benefit. We have referred the proposed legislation to the Social Security Advisory Committee and will respond to its report in due course.

Incapacity Benefit

John Woodcock: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department has changed the level of funding allocated for retesting and transition of incapacity benefit claimants to employment and support allowance since May 2010. [16385]

Chris Grayling: The retesting and transition of incapacity benefit claimants to employment and support allowance introduces a new process to DWP. As a consequence, funding has been estimated having regard to departmental forecasting and resource allocation models. Such models are regularly updated to provide the most accurate data possible for the new process. The accuracy of the data will be reviewed regularly following national implementation of the new process. However, at present the funding allocation for IB (income support) reassessment has not fundamentally changed since May 2010.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Graduates

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his Department's most recent estimate is of the number of people who graduated from university in 2010 and who are in receipt of jobseeker's allowance in *(a)* England, *(b)* Leeds and *(c)* Leeds North West. [16067]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not available.

Maternity Pay

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of payments of statutory maternity pay which included a component representing a bonus otherwise payable to the employee in each of the last three years; and if he will estimate the cost to the Exchequer of the payment of such components in each such year. [16370]

Maria Miller: The first six weeks of statutory maternity pay is paid at 90% of a woman's weekly earnings (with no upper limit) averaged over a set period. Employers are legally required to calculate the amount using earnings actually paid in that period and the dates of that period must be worked out according to how a woman is paid. This will generally capture eight weeks' actual earnings for weekly paid women or two months' earnings for monthly paid women around the fourth to sixth months of pregnancy. For some women a bonus or commission is a regular, integral part of their pay and this may be included in the calculation.

A breakdown of the components making up an individual's pay is not required to be reported. However, payments of statutory maternity pay are liable to audit by HMRC in the usual manner.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Nick Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much money lost to benefit fraud was recovered through his Department's National Benefit Fraud Hotline and its Targeting Benefit Fraud campaign in 2009-10. [16098]

Chris Grayling: The amount of money recovered as a result of fraud referrals generated by either the National Benefit Fraud Hotline or the Targeting Benefit Fraud campaign is not available.

However, in 2009-10 the Department recovered over £290 million of debts owed to the Department.

Nick Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff the National Benefit Fraud Hotline employed on the latest date for which figures are available. [16099]

Chris Grayling: During the week commencing 13 September 2010 there were on average 24 customer service agents deployed daily answering National Benefit Fraud Hotline calls.

The majority of Hotline calls are taken by staff based at a contact centre in Preston. Agents at three other sites receive NBFH calls when there are high call volumes, or when the Preston site experiences technical issues. This ensures a high level of customer service at all times.

The Department also provides a dedicated Welsh Language NBFH service at Bangor contact centre. On average, five multi-skilled agents are deployed on all Welsh service lines provided by Bangor contact centre daily.

In addition to this there is also an out-of-hours service which is operated by a private company, Vertex. On average, Vertex deploys two agents between 7 am and 8 am and a maximum of nine agents between 7 pm and 11pm daily. This decreases during the evening as call volumes reduce.

Social Security Benefits: Vulnerable Adults

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what mechanism he plans to put in place to measure the effects of the implementation of his proposals for welfare reform on *(a)* deafblind people and *(b)* other vulnerable groups. [13823]

Maria Miller: Legislation places a duty on all public authorities to pay due regard to the need to promote disability equality. The Government are strongly committed to this principle. My Department undertakes equality impact assessments on any changes to departmental policies and practices and has a well established set of processes to ensure these have a strong evidence base. When we publish our welfare reform proposals we will also be publishing an impact assessment of these changes, which will include an equality impact assessment.

State Retirement Pensions

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 8 September 2010, *Official Report*, columns 599-600W, how many people who were in receipt of a full state pension before 6 April 2009 had not accrued the full number of entitlement years by means of national insurance (NI) contributions and had bought back years of entitlement by way of their former spouses' NI contributions. [16049]

Steve Webb: Latest data show that, at the end of September 2009, 1.9 million people receiving a full basic state pension did so because of derived entitlement from their late spouse.

Notes:

1. The figure is for people in Great Britain only.

2. The figure includes recipients of Category B pension. The figure does not include cases where the national insurance contribution record of an individual's former spouse has been substituted for the individual's own record to improve their basic state pension.

3. The figure is for individuals reaching state pension age on or before 30 September 2009. These individuals are not affected by changes to the calculation of entitlement to the basic state pension for people reaching state pension age from 6 April 2010.

Source:

DWP, Information Directorate: 5% sample administrative data

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Overseas Aid

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 27 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 267W, on Afghanistan: overseas aid, which areas of expenditure to which the additional £200 million funding announced for Afghanistan is to be allocated were previously administered in whole or in part by the *(a)* Foreign and Commonwealth Office and *(b)* Ministry of Defence. [15935]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The additional £200 million funding announced for Afghanistan, as mentioned in my answer of 27 July 2010, will provisionally be allocated for (a) improving security and political stability; (b) economic stability, growth and jobs, and (c) helping the Afghan Government deliver vital basic services.

These areas of expenditure were previously and continue to be administered by the Department for International Development (DFID).

A more detailed description was included in my written statement of 21 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 18-20WS.

Bangladesh: Overseas Aid

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department has provided to *(a)* the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and *(b)* the Government of Bangladesh in respect of Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh in each of the last five years. [15967]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) has not provided funding to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) or the Government of Bangladesh specifically in respect of Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh.

DFID supports Rohingya refugees through core contributions to UNHCR, which manages the official camps; UNICEF; the World Food Programme; the World Health Organisation; the United Nations Population Fund; and the European Union.

Core funding to UNHCR was £20 million in 2005, and £19 million per year from 2006 to 2009. This funding is designed to strengthen UNHCR's capacity to meet its mandate globally, including assisting Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh.

Burma: Overseas Aid

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much aid the UK has given to Burma in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [15965]

Mr Duncan: Details of UK aid expenditure in developing countries, including Burma, are published in Statistics on International Development (SID) which is available in the House Library or online at

www.dfid.gov.uk

UK Bilateral Gross Public Expenditure (GPEX) and imputed expenditure through multilateral organisations in Burma from 2004-05 to 2008-09 are reproduced as follows. Figures for 2009-10 will be published in the next addition of SID later this year.

£000

Financial year	*Total bilateral GPEX*	*UK imputed multilateral shares*
2004-05	6,008	3,376
2005-06	6,483	3,625
2006-07	7,610	3,140
2007-08	8,915	7,195
2008-09	57,601	5,583

Departmental Billing

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the average cost to his Department was of processing the payment of an invoice in the latest period for which figures are available; and what proportion of invoices settled in that period his Department paid *(a)* electronically and *(b)* by cheque. [16168]

Mr Duncan: For the period 1 January 2009-31 December 2009, the average cost to the Department for International Development (DFID) of processing an invoice was £12.84.

All invoices settled in the UK during the period were paid electronically. Due to the nature of financial systems in many of the countries in which we work, the majority of invoices settled in our overseas offices are paid by cheque. We are unable to provide a breakdown of payment methods in our overseas offices without incurring disproportionate costs.

Departmental Empty Property

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the estimated monetary value is of each vacant *(a)* building and *(b)* parcel of land owned by his Department in each region. [16247]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not have any vacant properties or parcels of land in the UK.

The requested information cannot be provided for DFID's overseas properties without incurring disproportionate cost. DFID has not hitherto held central records of our overseas estates. We are currently in the process of developing a central information management system that will capture this information. I will write to my hon. Friend with the requested information once this system is in place.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many staff his Department employs to consider *(a)* departmental and *(b)* national strategy; what output such staff are required to produce; and if he will make a statement. [15595]

Mr Duncan: The Prime Minister wrote to Cabinet colleagues on 29 May 2010 setting out that organograms for central Government Departments and agencies that include all staff positions would be published in a common format from October 2010.

The Department for International Development will therefore shortly be publishing an organogram that includes role descriptions and numbers of staff as at 30 June 2010.

It is difficult to state what constitutes 'departmental' and 'national' strategy, as most staff will work on formulating or co-ordinating departmental or national policies or sometimes a combination of both.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development on what date he informed the Secretary of State for Scotland of proposals to reduce the number of staff his Department employs in Scotland; what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Scotland on this matter; and when he last met the Secretary of State for Scotland. [15661]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: In line with all Government Departments, the Department for International Development (DFID) will be reviewing its staffing requirements at all of its UK and overseas locations following the outcome of the comprehensive spending review (CSR) to be published on 20 October.

Existing resourcing plans will need to be modified and updated to reflect the CSR settlement. DFID's office in Scotland plays, and will continue to play, an integral role in delivering DFID's global objectives. The Department is currently in the process of transferring 70 posts to Scotland from its office in London.

I speak to all Cabinet colleagues on a regular basis about a wide range of issues, but have not had any specific discussions with the Secretary of State for Scotland on staffing plans for DFID's office in Scotland.

Departmental Press: Subscriptions

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on newspapers, periodicals and trade profession magazines in each year since 1997. [16228]

Mr Duncan: Centrally managed expenditure on newspapers, periodicals and trade professional magazines since 2004-05 is as follows. Information for previous years cannot be compiled without incurring disproportionate cost.

Financial year	*Amount (£)*
2004-05	135,887
2005-06	142,015
2006-07	88,290
2007-08	112,203
2008-09	96,098
2009-10	90,118
2010-11 (to date)	20,437

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much money his Department allocated to *(a)* the Stabilisation Aid Fund, *(b)* the Conflict Prevention Pool, *(c)* the Discretionary Peacekeeping Fund, *(d)* the BBC World Service, excluding the BBC World Service Trust, *(e)* the BBC World Service Trust, *(f)* the Special Reserve, *(g)* the British Council and *(h)* the Security and Intelligence Fund in each year since 2005. [15971]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The following table shows the Department for International Development's (DFID) expenditure on the BBC World Service Trust and the British Council from 2005-06 to 2009-10. DFID funding to the British Council includes our contribution to the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan (CSFP), which is administered by the British Council on behalf of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). DFID has not provided any funding to the BBC World Service in any year since 2005.

£ million

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
BBC World Service Trust	6.7	8.5	5.3	2.2	6.7
British Council	25.3	29.4	29.5	26.2	33.2

From 2008 the Africa Conflict Prevention Pool and the Global Conflict Prevention Pool were merged into the Conflict Prevention Pool (CPP); and the Stabilisation Aid Fund (SAF) was created. In 2009 the CPP and the SAF were merged to form the Conflict Pool. The Conflict Pool is funded from a separate HM Treasury settlement, managed jointly by DFID, FCO and the Ministry of Defence (MOD), and not from Departmental Expenditure Limits (DEL). DFID funding to the Pool is laid out in DFID's Resource Accounts.

In the last two financial years, DFID has also provided an additional £1.5 million per year to the Conflict Pool from its core DEL for conflict prevention activities in Sri Lanka. Also, in financial year 2009-10, Departments contributed a total of £20 million from their DELs to support stabilisation activities in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, of which £11.5 million came from DFID. DFID did not allocate money for discretionary peacekeeping, the Single Intelligence Account or the Special Reserve in any of the given years.

DFID resources allocated to the Conflict Pool over the period from 2005-06 to 2009-10 are therefore as follows.

£ million

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Conflict Pool	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.5	13.0

DFID has not allocated any money to the Special Reserve or Single Intelligence Account in any year since 2005.

Departmental Secondment

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many staff his Department has appointed on secondment since 7 May 2010; and from what organisation each such member of staff has been seconded. [16263]

Mr Duncan: Since 7 May 2010, the Department for International Development has appointed a total of four individuals on secondment. These members of staff were seconded from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Department for Work and Pensions, HM Revenue and Customs and the Government Equalities Office.

Developing Countries: Health Services

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of his Department's expenditure on health and health systems in 2010-11 has been allocated to human resources for health in the poorest 20 countries. [16395]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) provides funding for human resources for health as part of our broader support to health system strengthening in our partner countries. DFID are not able to disaggregate expenditure on human resources from broader health system expenditure. However, in 2009 a retrospective review of health spending at country level, it was estimated that approximately 25% of DFID's health spending supported human resources for health. This includes salaries and retention initiatives, pre-service education and training, enhancing skills and productivity and management and supervision of front line health workers.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent reports he has received on the effects of shortages of health workers in less developed countries on rates of *(a)* tuberculosis, *(b)* HIV/AIDS and *(c)* malaria. [16429]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) has not received any recent reports referring specifically to the effects of health worker shortages on rates of TB, AIDS and malaria. However, there is a clear body of evidence that the global shortage of health workers, amounting to as many as 3.5 million, affects the poorest countries most. The high rates of AIDS, TB and malaria in many less developed countries will be controlled only through a comprehensive approach to health service delivery that addresses health worker numbers, skills and deployment, essential drugs and commodities and early prevention, accurate diagnosis and quality treatment.

DFID is currently developing plans to accelerate its support to malaria control and to reproductive, maternal and newborn health. Health workers are an important dimension in addressing these priorities, and it should be noted that AIDS, TB and malaria cause a large proportion of maternal mortality. These business plans will be released in early 2011.

Developing Countries: HIV Infection

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he plans to fund further research into a potential microbicide containing tenofovir; and if he will make a statement. [16372]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Recent research shows that a vaginal microbicide containing 1% tenofovir reduced HIV infection by 39%. These early results are encouraging but the optimism should be tempered with caution. There is some uncertainty about the exact nature of the follow-up research required to confirm these findings and funding agencies are in discussion with researchers and regulatory agencies. Once there is greater clarity and consensus about the way forward the Department for International Development (DFID) will be able to consider whether additional funding is required. In the meantime DFID continues to fund the Microbicide Development Programme and the International Partnership for Microbicides.

International Assistance

Joseph Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the outcomes of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals Review summit in New York in September 2010. [16071]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The United Nations Millennium Development Goals summit was a success. It generated unprecedented global commitments to save 16 million women and children, reverse the spread of malaria and tackle hunger and under-nutrition.

In his speech to the General Assembly, the Deputy Prime Minister took the opportunity to showcase overall UK leadership on international development issues. He reiterated the UK's commitment to reaching 0.7% of gross national income in aid from 2013 and challenged others to live up to their promises.

International Assistance: Maternity Services

Richard Ottaway: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department is taking steps to ensure that the composition of the advisory committee for Millennium Development Goal 5 on maternal health at the MDG+10 Summit is balanced in respect of *(a)* gender and *(b)* geographical representation. [15877]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The UN Secretary General's Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Advocates Group was established in June 2010 to galvanize support for the MDGs. The group consists of eminent personalities who have shown outstanding leadership in promoting the implementation of the goals. The UK pressed for the inclusion of women and Southern representatives. Currently there are no female advocates working exclusively on MDG5, however a number of women, including southern representatives are working on MDG3 on gender equality and across the other MDGs.

Richard Ottaway: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to ensure that the MDG+10 summit outcome document upholds internationally-accepted human rights standards. [15878]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development (DFID) played an active role in negotiating the outcome document, which provides an action framework for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, focusing global efforts over the next five years towards the achievement of basic human rights, such as access to health care and primary education.

During negotiations DFID pushed for a clear focus on results and accountability, which are essential to upholding human rights standards. This was included in the document and my Department will ensure the momentum generated at the summit is carried forward. DFID will play an active role in the annual review mechanism in the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and in other international fora, such as the G20.

The outcome document can be accessed on the DFID website at:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Media-Room/News-Stories/2010/Outcomes-from-the-MDG-Summit/

Richard Ottaway: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to ensure that the MDG+10 Summit outcome document calls for reproductive health services to be made publicly available and affordable to all, non-discriminatory, non-coercive, sensitive to age and lifestyle and adequately funded. [15879]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The outcome document stresses the need to focus on the Millennium Development Goals that are most off-track, such as maternal health. During negotiations, the UK consistently pushed for the document to call for the fullest possible access to reproductive health services and commodities. We are committed to improving sexual and reproductive health and rights, including access to modern family planning as a way of empowering women and promoting women's choice in the developing world.

The outcome document can be accessed on the Department for International Development (DFID) website at:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Media-Room/News-Stories/2010/Outcomes-from-the-MDG-Summit/

Richard Ottaway: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether the UK delegation to the MDG+10 Summit includes *(a)* members of civil society groups and *(b)* hon. Members with expertise in sexual and reproductive health and rights. [15880]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The UK delegation to the UN Millennium Development Goals Summit was led by the Deputy Prime Minister and myself. We were supported by senior officials from my Department with expertise in sexual and reproductive health and rights. Both the Deputy Prime Minister and I met with representatives of civil society groups ahead of and throughout the summit. I will also be meeting with representatives of civil society groups on 12 October to discuss the outcomes of the summit.

Overseas Aid: Drugs

Mr Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has paid to *(a)* the International Harm Reduction Association and *(b)* others to support harm reduction drug treatment overseas in the last five years; and what assessment has been made of the effectiveness of such payments. [16291]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) has committed £2,230,252 over five years ending 30 September 2011, in support to the International Harm Reduction Association (IHRA). DFID has also supported the provision of HIV services for injecting drug users through bilateral programmes in Bangladesh, Burma, China, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, Vietnam and the central Asia region, and through support to the Global Fund to fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. It would entail disproportionate costs to collect information on the amount spent on these individual harm reduction programmes as they are part of broader public health programmes.

All programmes funded by DFID are reviewed annually against agreed performance indicators and targets to ensure progress and assess impact and effectiveness. An independent annual review of the IHRA was last conducted in December 2009 which demonstrated significant impact.

Pakistan: Floods

Joseph Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his most recent assessment is of the humanitarian situation in Pakistan; and if he will make a statement. [16060]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: I refer my hon. Friend to my oral statement of 7 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 187, setting out details of our support and funding.

The situation in Pakistan is evolving. In most areas of the country early recovery is beginning, whilst in some areas emergency relief is still needed, particularly in Sindh province. My Department continues to closely monitor the situation to identify and deliver aid appropriately.

I will make a more detailed statement to the House shortly.

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which organisations have received aid funding from his Department to assist following the floods in Pakistan in July 2010. [16065]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Details of organisations funded by the Department for International Development (DFID) in response to the Pakistan floods are available on the Floods Monitor on DFID's website at:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/pakistanfloodsmonitor2010

To date, DFID has provided direct funding to six UN agencies: the International Organisation for Migration (IOM); the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA); the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF); the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organisation (WHO). Funding has been provided to the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to support their flood relief efforts. My Department has also supported five non-governmental organisations (NGOs) who are responding to the Pakistan floods: Concern Worldwide; InfoAsAid; the International Medical Corps; Oxfam and Save the Children, as well as two consortiums of NGOs: the Consortium of British Humanitarian Agencies and the Rural Support Programmes Network. DFID provides regular core funding to the following agencies who have also responded to the Pakistan floods: the European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO) and the UN Central Emergency Response Fund.

Today I have laid a written statement before the House, committing an additional £70 million to support relief efforts in Pakistan. Allocations of these additional funds will be made in due course and published on the Floods Monitor.

Pakistan: Overseas Aid

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding he plans to allocate to each project in his Department's bilateral aid programme for Pakistan in each of the next three years. [16391]

Mr Duncan: All Department for International Development (DFID) country programmes are currently being reviewed under the Bilateral Aid Review. DFID will announce decisions on country allocations after the comprehensive spending review and the completion of the Bilateral Aid Review.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Burma: Crimes Against Humanity

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will take into account the findings of the report by the Irish Centre for Human Rights entitled "Crimes against Humanity in Western Burma: The Situation of the Rohingyas" in developing his Department's policy on Burma; and if he will make a statement. [15966]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Government take careful note of reports such as this one, which documents the appalling human rights abuses endured by the Rohingya ethnic group. We are working to highlight their plight, and seeking to end impunity for such abuses, through the UN Human Rights Council and UN General Assembly.

Departmental Empty Property

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the estimated monetary value is of each vacant *(a)* building and *(b)* parcel of land owned by his Department in each region. [16249]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has no vacant buildings in the United Kingdom. There is one plot of 18 acres of agricultural land adjacent to our site at Hanslope Park, North Buckinghamshire, which has been declared vacant and is likely to be sold next year.

Day-to-day management of our overseas estate is devolved to our overseas posts and it is not possible to provide accurate information on vacant properties or land parcels without incurring disproportionate cost. The FCO does not publish valuations of individual properties as this can prejudice the prices achieved on disposal.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on hospitality for events hosted by each Minister in his Department in July 2010. [14938]

Alistair Burt: Nil spend for July 2010 on hospitality events for the Minister for Europe, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, my hon. Friend the Member for North West Norfolk (Mr Bellingham), the Minister of State, my hon. Friend the Member for Taunton Deane (Mr Browne) and Lord Howell.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary hosted events for visiting Foreign Ministers at a cost of £1,976 charged to Government hospitality.

I hosted lunch at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) for Arab ambassadors at a cost of £263 to the FCO budget.

Departmental Secondment

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff his Department has appointed on secondment since 7 May 2010; and from what organisation each such member of staff has been seconded. [16258]

Alistair Burt: Since 7 May 2010, 50 staff have joined the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on loan from Departments including HM Treasury, the UK Border Agency, HM Revenue and Customs and the Ministry of Defence.

Ejup Ganic

Mr Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs who attended the meeting relating to Dr Ejup Ganic held at his Department on 27 February 2010; and what *(a)* matters were discussed and *(b)* decisions were made at that meeting. [16004]

Mr Lidington: No meeting was held at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) on Saturday 27 February 2010.

Before Dr Ganic's provisional arrest, however, the Metropolitan police held a meeting on 1 March 2010 at New Scotland Yard. Officials from the FCO and Home Office attended the meeting which was to discuss Serbia's request for Dr Ganic's provisional arrest and the issue of possible immunity from arrest and detention. Pursuant to a warrant issued by a district judge at City of Westminster magistrates court, the Metropolitan police later arrested Dr Ganic.

Mr Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions the Government have had with the Government of Serbia on the judgement given by Mr Tim Workman, Senior District Judge at the City of Westminster Magistrates Court on 27 July 2010 in the case of the Government of the Republic of Serbia *v.* Ejup Ganic. [16005]

Mr Lidington: The Government have had no discussions with the Government of Serbia on the judgment given in the case of the Government of the Republic of Serbia *v.* Ejup Ganic.

India: Foreign Relations

Joseph Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he has taken to sustain and develop relations with India following the Prime Minister's visit in July 2010. [16089]

Alistair Burt: The visit to India by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister and ministerial colleagues in July 2010 formed an excellent basis on which to develop an enhanced partnership with India. The Government have worked since the visit to take this forward at all levels. My hon. Friend the Minister for Immigration visited India in August 2010 and the coming months will see visits by my right hon. Friends the Secretaries of State for Defence and International Development, and my right hon. Friend the Minister for Universities and Science. Officials and members of the business community are in the final stages of establishing forums to pursue mutual trade and investment interests. And co-operation on science, education and climate change is ongoing. People to people links also remain important and my ministerial colleagues and I look forward to meeting a visiting delegation of Indian parliamentarians on 14 October 2010.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps he has taken to seek to secure the release of Gilad Shalit. [16077]

Alistair Burt: The UK has been consistent in its views of the inviolability of Israel's security and for the need to release, unconditionally, Gilad Shalit.

My right hon. friend the Foreign Secretary made the following statement on 25 June 2010, the fourth anniversary of Shalit's capture:

> "Today marks the fourth anniversary of the abduction of Israeli soldier, Staff Sergeant Gilad Shalit. My thoughts are with Gilad's parents today. I sincerely hope that they will soon be able to welcome their son home.
>
> The UK has long called for Gilad Shalit's immediate and unconditional release and we reiterate that call today. It is also vital that Hamas allows the International Committee of the Red Cross to visit Gilad immediately and ensure that he is in good health. His continued captivity without any ICRC access and with only very occasional, minimal contact with his family is utterly unacceptable. We continue to call on Hamas to renounce violence and take immediate and concrete steps towards the Quartet principles and to free Gilad Shalit without delay."

Office of UK Permanent Representative to EC

Mr Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will ensure that the appointment of the next UK Permanent Representative to the EU is made subject to a confirmation hearing by the Select Committee on Foreign Affairs. [15580]

Mr Lidington: It is not our practice for Diplomatic Service appointments to be subject to such hearings. The Government will continue to offer the Committee post-appointment hearings in the case of outside appointments to diplomatic posts.

Mr Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what criteria he uses to assess the performance of the UK Permanent Representative to the EU against the objectives set for him. [15602]

Mr Lidington: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office uses an annual appraisal cycle to assess the performance of all the staff. At the beginning of each reporting period, the job holder agrees a series of objectives with their line manager against which their performance is assessed on a regular basis throughout the year.

Pakistan: Ahmadiyya

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions his Department has had with the Government of Pakistan on the attacks on Ahmadiyya Muslims in Mardan, Pakistan on 3 September 2010; and if he will make a statement. [15547]

Alistair Burt: The UK condemns all attacks against religious minorities in Pakistan, whenever and wherever they happen.

The attacks on Ahmadiyya Muslims in Mardan on 3 September 2010 are a further example of the persecution suffered by this religious group. They follow the horrific attacks in Lahore on 28 May 2010, in which over 90 people were killed. These attacks were condemned by my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary, and our high commissioner in Islamabad raised the discrimination suffered by the Ahmadiyya community with the Chief Minister of Punjab alongside his EU colleagues. I have spoken directly to the Pakistani Minister for Minorities, Shahbaz Bhatti, to encourage Pakistan to fully guarantee the fundamental rights of all Pakistani citizens.

Serbia: EU Enlargement

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on the surrender of Ratko Mladic to the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia as a pre-condition for the signing of a Stabilisation and Association Agreement between Serbia and the EU. [15914]

Mr Lidington: The UK, along with all other EU member states, has consistently made clear that achieving and maintaining full co-operation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) is essential for Serbia's progress towards EU membership.

In April 2008, EU member states signed a Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) and Interim Agreement on trade and trade related matters (IA) with Serbia, in recognition of the EU's commitment to Serbia's European future, but agreed to delay implementation of the IA, and the commencement of ratification procedures of the SAA, pending agreement among EU member states that Serbia was fully co-operating with ICTY.

In December 2009, following a positive report by the ICTY Chief Prosecutor to the UN Security Council (UNSC), EU member states agreed to implement the IA and to consider the issue of ratification of the SAA after a further six months.

In June 2010, following the most recent report to the UNSC by the ICTY Chief Prosecutor, EU member states noted that Serbia had maintained its co-operation with the tribunal and agreed to submit Serbia's SAA to their Parliaments for ratification.

The Government will continue to keep Serbia's co-operation with ICTY under review, including at each stage of its EU accession process, in order to ensure that it continues to co-operate fully with the tribunal.

Sri Lanka: Human Rights

Stella Creasy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on recent reports of human rights abuses in Sri Lanka; and if he will make a statement. [15984]

Alistair Burt: We support the EU's statement of 17 September at the UN Human Rights Council encouraging Sri Lanka to improve the human rights situation and intensify its efforts to address the legacy of the military conflict. Our high commission in Colombo regularly speak with EU counterparts in Sri Lanka and we repeatedly call upon the Government of Sri Lanka to investigate reports of human rights abuses wherever they occur.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he has taken at *(a)* the United Nations and *(b)* EU level to establish an independent inquiry into human rights abuses in Sri Lanka. [16051]

Alistair Burt: We have welcomed the UN Secretary-General's establishment of a Panel of Experts to advise him on the issue of accountability, and encouraged the Government of Sri Lanka to co-operate fully with the members of the panel, including through the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission.

We support the EU statements of 27 October 2009 and 8 June 2010 calling for an independent and credible inquiry into allegations of violations of international law in the conflict and for those accountable to be brought to justice. Most recently we support the EU statement of 17 September at the UN Human Rights Council encouraging Sri Lanka to improve the human rights situation and intensify its efforts to address the legacy of the military conflict.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the internal inquiry by the Sri Lankan Government into human rights abuses. [16052]

Alistair Burt: We welcomed the Government of Sri Lanka's 'Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission' (LLRC) which is examining the causes of the conflict in the period 2002 to May 2009 when it was set up, but also stressed that it should investigate fully allegations of war crimes. We will continue to closely monitor progress on human rights issues, given the need for a credible process which addresses UK and international concerns.

UK Permanent Representative to EC

Mr Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs under what powers of prerogative Kim Darroch was appointed UK Permanent Representative to the EU. [15882]

Mr Lidington: The appointment of the UK's Permanent Representative to the EU is made in accordance with the Diplomatic Service Order in Council 1991, which also covers other appointments of senior ambassadorial rank.

Mr Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will require any future UK Permanent Representative to the EU to appear before the appropriate committee of the House prior to taking up the appointment. [15885]

Mr Lidington: Select Committees of the House are able to ask Government officials to give evidence. Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers and officials appear before committees on a regular basis.

Vietnam

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the strategic partnership agreement with Vietnam; and if he will make a statement. [15829]

Mr Jeremy Browne: A copy of the Strategic Partnership Declaration has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Speaking after the signing of the declaration on 8 September my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary said:

> "Today's agreement with Vietnam is yet another example of the UK's commitment to pursuing an active foreign policy with emerging powers around the world. This partnership will bring more direct links between our universities, closer co-operation on serious and organised crime and will continue our frank dialogue on human rights. It is also a real boost for British businesses looking to invest in Vietnam."

JUSTICE

Arrest Warrants: Offenders

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average cost to the public purse of *(a)* issuing and *(b)* executing a warrant for the arrest of a defendant absent from court was in the latest period for which figures are available. [15575]

Mr Djanogly: HMCS systems do not currently identify the cost to the public purse in relation to issuing or executing a warrant for the arrest of a defendant absent from court, this information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Ashwell Prison

Mr Ronnie Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will publish his Department's internal report on the riot at Ashwell prison in early April 2009; and if he will make a statement. [16107]

Mr Blunt: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) drew up an action plan in response to each of the recommendations in the report, all of which were accepted by Ministers. A copy of the action plan was placed in the Library in response to a question from my hon. and learned Friend the Member for Harborough (Mr Garnier) on 11 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 462-63W.

Key findings were that the incident could not have been foreseen; that the prisoners held at Ashwell were appropriate for the prison; and that staffing levels were also appropriate. It is not NOMS policy to publish in full restricted reports, which contain sensitive information and, in this case, where criminal investigations are continuing.

Bail

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many defendants have breached their bail conditions in the last three years; and how many were remanded in custody as a result; [15565]

(2) how many people breached bail conditions *(a)* once, *(b)* between two and five and *(c)* on more than five occasions in each of the last five years; and how many people in each category were subsequently remanded in custody. [15606]

Mr Blunt: Information on breaches of bail conditions is not held centrally. The courts have this information before them to enable them to take a fully informed remand decision on an individual case basis.

Courts: Applications

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on how many occasions *(a)* magistrates courts and *(b)* the Crown court refused applications by the Crown Prosecution Service to remand defendants in custody in each of the last three years. [15863]

Mr Djanogly: Information about the number of occasions that magistrates courts and the Crown court refused applications by the Crown Prosecution Service to remand defendants in custody is not centrally collected on either Crown Prosecution Service or HM Courts Service central database systems.

Although the recording of bail decisions is a required court function, the Crown Prosecution Service does not routinely record bail decisions and report on them even though endorsements are made on case files. To find this information, each case file would have to be reviewed to ascertain whether these circumstances applied. Therefore, in this case a disproportionate cost would be incurred.

Courts: Attendance

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the effect on the level of attendance in court of *(a)* defendants, *(b)* witnesses and *(c)* police officers of his proposals to close magistrates courts. [15706]

Mr Djanogly: I do not anticipate that the court closure proposals will have a significant effect on attendance in court of defendants, witnesses or police officers.

There is no evidence to suggest that travel distance to court is a significant cause of defendants failing to appear. Defendants are expected to attend court when summoned and courts may take into account travel considerations for defendants and witnesses when listing cases.

Ministry of Justice economists are currently working on the provision of area-wide impact assessments that will provide a full assessment of the costs and benefits of each closure. These will include an assessment of the travel impact on court users, police and probation and solicitors funded by legal aid.

We intend to publish the impact assessments alongside the consultations responses, by the end of the year.

Courts: Closures

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the likely *(a)* savings to and *(b)* maintenance costs foregone by HM Courts Service arising from the closure of each magistrates court proposed in his Department's consultation. [15707]

Mr Djanogly: The estimates of operating costs and maintenance backlog costs foregone by HM Courts Service (HMCS) for each proposed magistrates court closure are listed in the following table. The 2009-10 operating costs exclude income, as well as non-cash, staff and judicial costs. The maintenance backlog figures were collected in July 2009.

HMCS will produce a final proposal impact assessment for each consultation document to inform any decision on whether and which courts should close. These impact assessments will take account of the potential costs and benefits to HMCS, as well as wider economic, societal and environmental costs and benefits. We intend to publish these alongside the consultations responses, by the end of the year.

£000

Magistrates court	*Operating costs 2009-10*	*Maintenance backlog 2009*
Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Thames Valley		
Amersham Magistrates Court	80	7
Bicester Magistrates Court	86	—
Didcot Magistrates Court	98	20
Hemel Hempstead Magistrates Court	184	205
Newbury Magistrates Court*	132	—
Witney Magistrates Court	64	45
Cambridgeshire, Essex, Norfolk and Suffolk		
Cromer Magistrates Court	79	28
Ely Magistrates Court	45	76
Epping Magistrates Court	61	—
Grays Magistrates Court	184	296
Harlow Magistrates Court	148	—
Sudbury Magistrates Court	63	8
Swaffham Magistrates Court	40	7
Thetford Magistrates Court	109	98
Wisbech Magistrates Court	124	10
Cheshire and Merseyside		
Knowsley Magistrates Court	235	745
Northwich Magistrates Court*	221	135
Southport Magistrates Court	161	285
Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria		
Alnwick Magistrates Court	75	—
Bishop Auckland Magistrates Court*	152	55
Blaydon Magistrates Court	102	60
Gosforth Magistrates Court	75	95
Guisborough Magistrates Court	72	50
Hexham Magistrates Court (Tynedale)	75	90
Houghton Le Spring Magistrates Court	138	25
Cumbria and Lancashire		
Penrith Magistrates Court*	89	370
Rawtenstall Magistrates Court	74	225
Whitehaven Magistrates Court	154	305
Devon and Cornwall, Avon and Somerset and Gloucestershire		
Bridgwater Magistrates Court	207	230
Camborne Magistrates Court	25	75
Cirencester Magistrates Court	63	162
Coleford Magistrates Court	51	170
Frome Magistrates Court	91	190
Honiton Magistrates Court	64	—
Liskeard Magistrates Court	193	280
Newton Abbot Magistrates Court	128	170
Penzance Magistrates Court	26	—
Stroud Magistrates Court	129	160
Totnes Magistrates Court	52	205
Dorset, Hampshire and IOW and Wiltshire		
Alton Magistrates Court	178	290
Andover Magistrates Court	183	370
Blandford Forum Magistrates Court	52	415
Lyndhurst Magistrates Court	180	290
Wimborne Magistrates Court	60	2
East Midlands		
Coalville Magistrates Court	115	340
Daventry Magistrates Court	74	90
Ilkeston Magistrates Court	198	160
Kettering Magistrates Court	109	15
Market Harborough Magistrates Court	61	8
Melton Mowbray Magistrates Court*	116	75
Newark Magistrates Court*	178	90
Retford Magistrates Court	53	175
Rutland Magistrates Court	—	—
Spalding Magistrates Court	223	65
Towcester Magistrates Court	62	30
Worksop Magistrates Court*	203	
Greater Manchester		
Rochdale Magistrates Court	568	417
Salford Magistrates Court	477	2,290
Humber and South Yorkshire		
Goole Magistrates Court*	96	80

Magistrates court	*Operating costs 2009-10*	*£000* *Maintenance backlog 2009*
Kent, Surrey and Sussex		
Ashford Magistrates Court*	250	595
Epsom Magistrates Court	—	—
Haywards Heath Magistrates Court	306	640
Lewes Magistrates Court	200	50
Sittingbourne Magistrates Court	136	195
Woking Magistrates Court	333	60
London		
Acton Magistrates Court	204	310
Balham Youth Court	264	325
Barking and Dagenham Magistrates Court	313	115
Brentford Magistrates Court	176	635
Haringey Magistrates Court (Highgate)	312	275
Harrow Magistrates Court	227	60
Kingston upon Thames Magistrates Court	319	170
Sutton Magistrates Court	348	90
Tower Bridge Magistrates Court	268	810
Waltham Forest Magistrates Court	386	100
Woolwich Magistrates Court	181	45
North and West Yorkshire		
Batley and Dewsbury Magistrates Court	391	455
Bingley/Keighley Magistrates Court	263	225
Pontefract Magistrates Court	230	180
Selby Magistrates Court	131	100
Skipton Magistrates Court*	148	310
Staffordshire and West Mercia		
Ludlow Magistrates Court*	13	30
Market Drayton Magistrates Court	82	55
Oswestry Magistrates Court*	65	—
Stoke on Trent Magistrates Court	407	425
Tamworth Magistrates Court*	163	120
Wales		
Aberdare Magistrates Court*	258	190
Abergavenny Magistrates Court	127	631
Abertillery Magistrates Court	83	69
Ammanford Magistrates Court	110	45
Barry Magistrates Court	282	255
Cardigan Magistrates Court	88	50
Chepstow Magistrates Court*	3	—
Denbigh Magistrates Court	39	120
Flint Magistrates Court	90	
Llandovery Magistrates Court	—	—
Llangefni Magistrates Court	23	—
Llwynypia Magistrates Court	205	125
Pwllheli Magistrates Court	32	—
Warwickshire and West Midlands		
Halesowen Magistrates Court	178	75
Rugby Magistrates Court*	445	30
Sutton Coldfield Magistrates Court	239	195
West Bromwich Magistrates Court	194	270

Courts: Expenditure

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much HM Courts Service has spent on the maintenance of Keighley magistrates court sitting at Bingley magistrates court in each of the last five years. [15571]

Mr Djanogly: The resource maintenance costs incurred at Keighley magistrates court, sitting at Bingley, for the last five years are given in the following table.

	£
2005-06	37,523
2006-07	39,554
2007-08	95,541
2008-09	37,471
2009-10	71,312

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the operating costs were under each category of expenditure of operating Keighley magistrates court sitting at Bingley magistrates court in the latest period for which figures are available. [15572]

Mr Djanogly: The operating costs for 2009-10 for Keighley magistrates court sitting at Bingley are given in the table under each category of expenditure. These costs exclude income but include non-cash costs, staffing costs and judicial costs incurred by HM Courts Service.

	£
Staff Cost - Wages and Salaries	328,574.61
Property Rent and Rates	4,318.77
Maintenance	71,312.19
Other Property Costs	114,809.17
Other Expenditure	9,188.59
Printing Postage and Office expenditure	27,663.74
Staff travel and other	2,238.25
Depreciation and Amortisation	44,961.97
Diminution of Fixed and Intangible Assets	4,668.87
Fuel and Utilities	26,525.33
Other Contracted Out Services	2,832.77
IT and Telecommunications	7,178.30
Judicial Costs	73,936.50
Total	718,209.06

Courts: North Wales

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent representations he has received on the re-organisation of administrative staff in magistrates courts and county courts in North Wales. [15313]

Mr Djanogly: I have received no representations on court staff reorganisations within North Wales. Staff reorganisation is principally a matter for HMCS management and is undertaken using HMCS's internal staff management and consultation procedures, which includes consultation and engagement with staff, trade unions, judiciary and court user groups.

Courts: Offenders

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of defendants changed a plea before trial at *(a)* magistrates courts and *(b)* the Crown court in the latest period for which figures are available. [15574]

Mr Djanogly: In the second quarter of 2010, around 26,000 defendants entered a plea and were dealt with in trial cases at the Crown court. Of these defendants, around 16% changed their plea before the first substantive hearing. The second quarter of 2010 is the latest period for which statistics are available.

Information collected centrally about defendants in trials at the magistrates courts does not record whether their plea was changed prior to the trial taking place.

Courts: Sentencing

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of sentences for a second offence in *(a)* magistrates courts and *(b)* the Crown court were handed down to run concurrently with another sentence in the latest period for which figures are available. [15702]

Mr Blunt: The requested information is not held. Information collated on sentencing is on a principal offence basis i.e. each offender is recorded with the most severe punishment they receive, and the offence for which that sentence was given. Concurrent sentences which do not result in any punishment over and above the principal sentence are therefore not reported.

Courts: Yorkshire

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to announce the outcome of his consultation on the future of court services in North and West Yorkshire, with particular reference to Skipton Magistrates Court and Skipton County Court. [15832]

Mr Djanogly: My right hon. and learned Friend the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor hopes to announce decisions on the proposals for the future provision of court services in England and Wales to Parliament by the end of the year.

Departmental Allowances

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department and its predecessors spent on *(a)* reimbursement of staff expenses and *(b)* the 10 largest staff expense reimbursement claims in each year since 1997. [13034]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice accounting systems do not centrally collate the amount of money reimbursed to staff for expenses. Expenditure on staff expenses is recorded according to the type of expenditure incurred not the mechanism of payment. Expenditure on travel and subsistence can be incurred by direct booking with the Department's designated suppliers, via Government Procurement Card or by reimbursement of expenses incurred personally by officials. To collate information on amounts reimbursed would incur disproportionate costs as thousands of documents held locally would have to be manually examined.

Departments and agencies have authority to reimburse expenses incurred by their staff in connection with their employment, subject to the conditions set out in section 8 of the Civil Service Management Code which state that Departments and agencies must:

> reimburse staff only for expenses which they actually and necessarily incur in the course of official business;
>
> comply with the additional conditions and rules on travel, relocation expenses, compensation for loss or damage to property, and overseas expenses set out in sections 8.2 to 8.6 of the Code; and
>
> ensure that their rules provide for claiming recompense, including verification and authorisation.

All expenditure on expenses is made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety that are based on the principles set out in Government Accounting and supported by the Department's published internal guidance.

During the course of 2010-11, the MoJ is rolling out an online expenses system (iExpenses) that will make claiming expenses more efficient and easier to monitor in future. Full information will be available from 2011-12.

Departmental Billing

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average cost to his Department was of processing the payment of an invoice in the latest period for which figures are available; and what proportion of invoices settled in that period his Department paid *(a)* electronically and *(b)* by cheque. [16169]

Mr Djanogly: For the latest period for which figures are available (August 2010), the average cost to the Ministry of Justice for payment of an invoice was £3.90.

In that period 81% of invoices were settled electronically and 19% were settled by cheque.

Departmental Contracts

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the monetary value is of contracts his Department has awarded to each *(a)* management consultancy and *(b)* IT company since 7 May 2010. [16179]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice has awarded two IT contracts and one management consultancy contract since 7 May 2010.

The IT contracts were as follows:

Company	*Contract purpose*	*Contract value (£000)*
AMTEC (IT)	Implementation of electronic working arrangements in the Royal Courts of Justice	270
PWC (Consultancy)	Provision of actuarial modelling techniques to analyse options and scenarios under consideration as part of the Spending Review.	250
CACI Ltd (IT)	Development and application support for computer system for 7 years.	4,000

Departmental Empty Property

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the estimated monetary value is of each vacant *(a)* building and *(b)* parcel of land owned by his Department in each region. [16246]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: I am unable to detail the value of vacant buildings and land owned by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) as this may potentially prejudice future market prices. However, I am able to provide details of MoJ properties that are currently on the market and these are shown in the following table. There are currently no vacant parcels of land on the market.

In common with all Government Departments, the MoJ is required to dispose of surplus assets as quickly as possible.

Address	*Region*	*Guide price (£)*
Crowland House, Withersfield Road, Haverhill, Suffolk CB9 9LA	East of England	190,000
Probation Office, 12-14, Raymond Street, Thetford, Norfolk IP24 2EA	East of England	160,000
Probation Office, 46 Nottingham Road, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire DN22 6LD	East Midlands	273,000
14 Pitt Street, Newcastle Upon Tyne	North East	195,000
South View, Ashington	North East	150,000
Oatlands Road, Liverpool	North West	130,000
HM Court Service Offices, Sandbach	North West	350,000
Gainsborough Magistrates Court	North West	125,000
Leigh County Court	North West	120,000
Gravesend County Court	South East	300,000
Mildenhall Magistrates Court, Mildenhall, Suffolk	South East	200,000
The Lonsdale Centre, 3 Blake Street, Bridgewater, Somerset TA6 3NB	South West	155,000
Bristol Magistrates Court	South West	1,975,000
19-20 Gold Tops, Newport, Gwent	Wales	450,000
27 Argyle Street, Newport, Gwent NP20 5NE	Wales	115,000
The Highway, Cwmbran, Gwent NP44 2HF	Wales	155,000
Caernarfon Magistrates Court	Wales	60,000
Stowe Street, Lichfield	West Midlands	230,000
12 Falsgrave Road, Scarborough, North Yorkshire YO12 5AT	Yorkshire and Humberside	158,400
Whitby Magistrates Court	Yorkshire and Humberside	350,000
Louth Magistrates Court	Yorkshire and Humberside	150,000

Departmental Official Hospitality

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department spent on hospitality for events hosted by each Minister in the Department in each of the last three years. [13479]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: Since its inception in May 2007, the Ministry of Justice has had 19 Ministers. It would incur disproportionate costs to search the diaries of each Minister to ascertain which of the events listed were hosted by them, and then to contact the relevant business group to find out how much any hospitality cost.

All hospitality expenditure incurred by the Department is made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, which are based on the principles set out in Government Accounting and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Departmental Press: Subscriptions

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department spent on newspapers, periodicals and trade profession magazines in each year since 2007. [16238]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Ministry of Justice (MOJ) subscribes to many different periodicals and professional magazines (hard copy and online via individual purchase and subscription) for both staff and the judiciary in order to keep up to date with the latest news and thinking in a wide range of professional areas, including law, corporate services and job-specific roles.

Accounting systems for the MOJ, HMCS, Tribunals Service and Office of the Public Guardian do not differentiate soft and hard copy purchases. The same account codes also include some library purchases such as books and it would incur disproportionate costs to separate these costs out. The natural account codes for the National Offender Management Service do not differentiate purchased publications and publications created for their organisation.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if his Department will take steps to assess the effects on *(a)* equality of incomes, *(b)* equality of assets and *(c)* equality of access to services of measures relating to its expenditure under consideration in the spending review. [16377]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice will ensure the relevant equality considerations are taken in to account in the context of expenditure under consideration in the spending review, in compliance with our obligations under the Sex Discrimination Act 1975, the Race Relations Act 1976, and the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.

Departmental Redundancy Pay

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what severance payment was made to each *(a)* Minister and *(b)* special adviser in his Department who left office after the last general election. [14660]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: All severance payments are made in accordance with section 4 of the Ministerial and other Pensions and Salaries Act 1991. Following the last general election, six Ministers received a severance payment. These were:

Right hon. Jack Straw MP—Secretary of State for Justice (former)

Right hon. Michael Wills MP—Minister of State for Justice (former)

Maria Eagle MP—Joint Minister of State for Justice and Government Equalities Office (former)

Lord Bach—Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (former)

Bridget Prentice—Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (former)

Claire Ward MP—Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (former)

The total cost of severance payments made to these Ministers was £73,442.

Two former Ministry of Justice special advisers working to the Secretary of State for Justice also received a severance payment. These were:

Mark Davies—special adviser to the Secretary of State for Justice (special adviser pay range 3)

Declan McHugh—special adviser to the Secretary of State for Justice (special adviser pay range 2)

The total cost of severance payments made to these special advisers was £67,492.

Departmental Secondment

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff his Department has appointed on secondment since 7 May 2010; and from what organisation each such member of staff has been seconded. [16264]

Mr Djanogly: Between 7 May 2010 and 30 June 2010 (the date of the latest published data), no staff were seconded into the Ministry of Justice.

Immigration Appeals Commission

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the remit is of the Special Immigration Appeals Commission. [15551]

Mr Djanogly: The Tribunals Service, an Executive agency of the Ministry of Justice, is responsible for providing administrative support to the Special Immigration Appeals Commission (SIAC). SIAC deals with appeals against decisions of the Secretary of State for the Home Department (a) to deport, or exclude, someone from the UK on national security or public interest grounds and (b) on issues of citizenship as set out in the British Nationality Act 1981.

Legal Aid: Contracts

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what negotiations the Legal Services Commission has undertaken with *(a)* parties to the 2007 Unified Civil Contract for legal aid services and *(b)* parties who are not party to the contract in respect of any extension to it; and on what dates and with whom such negotiations took place. [15859]

Mr Djanogly: On 3 September, representatives from the Legal Services Commission (LSC) met with representatives from the Law Society to discuss a short extension to the Unified Contract (Civil). This was agreed at a further meeting between these two organisations on 6 September. In accordance with the terms of the Unified Contract (Civil) Standard Terms, a short consultation with the other main representative bodies (Advice Services Alliance and the Legal Aid Practitioners Group) then followed. Formal notification was then posted on the LSC's website on 13 September and issued by e-mail to existing contract holders. Discussions in relation to the contract extension were therefore all held with parties that are not holders of the Unified Contract (Civil) but their representative bodies.

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what consideration *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Legal Services Commission gave to the requirements of (i) procurement law and (ii) contract law in decisions on the extension of the 2007 Unified Civil Contract for legal aid services. [15860]

Mr Djanogly: Decisions made under the tender process for the award of legal aid contracts are a matter for the LSC, which is responsible for administering the legal aid scheme.

The one-month extension of the Unified Contract (Civil) has been implemented by the LSC in accordance with the contract's standard terms. This followed consultation with representative bodies in accordance with the contract's standard terms. Legal advice was taken by the LSC on procurement and contractual law as appropriate.

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what extensions to the 2007 Unified Civil Contract for legal aid services there have been; on what date the extensions were made; and on what basis they were made. [15890]

Mr Djanogly: The 2007 Unified Contract (Civil) was initially granted for three years from 1 April 2007 (to expire on 31 March 2010 unless lawfully ended or extended before then). On 23 December 2009 the LSC published notification that the contract would be extended to 14 October 2010. This extension was to take account of tenders for 2010 contracts opening in January-March 2010. On 13 September 2010 a further extension of the contract to expire at midnight on 14 November 2010 was announced. This was to take account of the legal challenge brought by the Law Society. Both extensions were made in accordance with the provisions of the contract.

Magistrates: Public Expenditure

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the average cost to the public purse of recruiting and training new magistrates in the latest period for which figures are available. [15573]

Mr Djanogly: The average estimated costs of the induction training for the period 2009-10 for new magistrates was £180.56 calculated on 1,632 magistrates appointed and estimated costs of £294,678.86.

The figure is made up from the individual reports of local Magistrates' Area Training Committees. Following selection and appointment, a magistrate will be assigned to a 'bench' for induction, training and court rota purposes. The local Magistrates' Area Training Committee provides the training utilising the core training materials prepared by the Judicial Studies Board.

The average estimated costs of recruiting magistrates for the period 2009-10 was £93.75 calculated on 1,632 magistrates appointed and estimated cost of £153,000.

The £153,000 is the estimated budget for the recruitment campaigns during the period 2009-10.

Medway Secure Training Centre: Conduct

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* internal, *(b)* external and *(c)* police investigations into the conduct of staff were conducted at Medway secure training centre in each year since 1998; and what the outcome was of each investigation in respect of which any legal proceedings have been completed. [15867]

Mr Blunt: Medway Secure Training Centre (STC) conducts an internal investigation for every allegation made against the conduct of staff and following any referrals made to its local Children's Services Team. External investigations are carried out by the local Children's Services Child Protection Team (CSPT), who will involve the police for investigation when this is deemed necessary.

There were no legal proceedings as a result of any investigation carried out by the CSPT. Using these criteria the figures are as follows:

	Internal	*External*	*Police*
2001	13	0	0
2002	19	1	0
2003	50	13	0
2004	32	7	0
2005	37	5	0
2006	26	4	0
2007	31	2	0
2008	19	0	0
2009	34	0	0
2010	26	0	0

Data prior to 2001 are unavailable for the purpose of this question.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large-scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and may be subject to change over time.

Medway Secure Training Centre: Restraint Techniques

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether any injuries were sustained as a result of the use of restraint techniques on boys held in Medway secure training centre since 1998. [15869]

Mr Blunt: All secure establishments submit monthly data returns to the Youth Justice Board (YJB) on the number of injuries from restrictive physical interventions (RPI). Data on injuries are reported against common definitions of minor injury requiring medical treatment (which includes cuts, scratches and grazes) and serious injury requiring hospital treatment (which includes fractures and loss of consciousness).

Data have been collected on the injuries arising from an RPI since April 2007 and these figures have been provided in the table. These include both of the above categories of injuries. Data are not available broken down by gender.

	Injury requiring medical treatment
2007-08	67
2008-09	38

The data from 2009-10 will be available following the publication of the 2009-10 Annual YJB Workload statistics in January 2011.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large-scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and may be subject to change over time.

Missing Persons

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will bring forward proposals to implement the recommendation of the final report of the Missing Persons Taskforce on a Presumption of Death Bill for England and Wales. [16343]

Mr Djanogly: The Missing Persons Taskforce recommended that my Department consider the benefits and circumstances in which a presumption of death might apply in missing person cases. We are currently considering these matters and shall report when we have more information.

National Offender Management Service: Buildings

Richard Graham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the National Offender Management Service has a standard rental rate for probation service offices; and if he will make a statement. [16112]

Mr Blunt: The National Offender Management Service negotiates the best market rate for the rent of probation premises to ensure value for money.

A standard rate, currently £178 per square metre, is applied to probation offices, which covers the cost of rent, rates, service charges, electricity, gas, oil, water and telephones. It also covers facility management and estate management costs, including the provision of building repair and maintenance, plus non-cash costs such as depreciation, dilapidation provisions and impairment charges.

This rate is levied on the basis of the gross internal area being occupied in a given period. The charge is adjusted when a probation trust either vacates a building or otherwise increases or decreases the floor area they use.

Offenders: West Midlands

Margot James: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people with addresses in *(a)* the metropolitan borough of Dudley and *(b)* the metropolitan borough of Walsall are (i) in prison, (ii) on probation and (iii) in secure accommodation. [15632]

Mr Blunt: The information requested is set out as follows.

Prison

Information on a prisoner's residence is provided by prisoners on reception into prison. If no address is given on first reception in to prison, various proxies are used to determine a home address, including using the next-of-kin address and the committal court address. These figures are included in the answer.

As of 10 September 2010, based on this information there were 254 people in a prison or young offender institution with a recorded address in the metropolitan borough of Dudley and 297 people in a prison or young offender institution with a recorded address in the metropolitan borough of Walsall.

These figures include male and female prisoners, adults, young offenders and juveniles and those who are sentenced and on remand.

Probation

Staffordshire and West Midlands Probation Trust record the total number of offenders managed in the community with recorded address in the metropolitan boroughs of Dudley and Walsall.

At the end of August 2010, based on this information there were 679 people who had received a community sentence and were being managed in the community by the Probation Service with an address in the borough of Dudley. On the same date there were 672 people who had received a community sentence and were being managed in the community by the Probation Service with an address in the borough of Walsall. These figures include both males and females.

Secure Accommodation

The Youth Justice Board does not record the local authority of a young person's home address. The Youth Justice Board does however hold data on the youth offending team (YOT) attached to the young person. The following table shows the number of people under 18 who are attached to Dudley and Walsall youth offending teams (YOTs) in secure accommodation on 10 September 2010

	Dudley YOT	*Walsall YOT*
Secure Children's Homes	0	0
Secure Training Centres	1	4
Total	1	4

All data have been drawn from individual administrative IT systems, which, as with any large-scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and may be subject to change over time.

Prison Service: Racial Discrimination

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many racist incidents were reported in prisons in each of the last three years. [15553]

Mr Blunt: The following table indicates the total number of incidents of alleged racism reported by prisoners, staff or visitors in the last three reporting years.

	Number
2007-08	13,323
2008-09	14,578
2009-10	13,365

A small proportion consist of allegations of misconduct by staff and all such matters are subject to disciplinary investigation under the code of conduct and discipline.

All investigations into reported acts of racism are overseen and signed off by the governor or deputy governor. In addition, the regional custodial manager conducts bi-annual checks of a random sample of investigations.

The NOMS Race Review 2008—published in December 2008 and available in the Library—sets out the current assessment of race equality in the prison service, including the effectiveness of these systems and plans for work further to improve them.

Prisoners' Release

Susan Elan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders serving a custodial sentence for a violent crime were *(a)* released on licence and *(b)* re-arrested for a further violent offence while under licence in each of the last five years. [15940]

Mr Blunt: The following table shows the number of offenders serving a determinate sentence for violence against the person released on licence over the last five years (2005 to 2009).

	Number
1 January to 30 June 2009[1]	4,524
2008	9,622
2007	8,600
2006	8,014
2005	8,265

[1] Data for the second half of 2009 are not available.

Information is not held centrally for offenders arrested for a further violent offence while under licence.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large-scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisoners: Religion

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 8 September 2010, *Official Report*, columns 576-77W, on prisoners: religion, which 44 prisons in England and Wales logged Security Information Reports of incidents which might relate to manifestations of attempted radicalisation. [16079]

Mr Blunt: It would be inappropriate for operational reasons, including implications for order and control and the integrity of security systems, to provide the information requested.

All security information reports submitted by staff have to be evaluated for quality, accuracy and intelligence value. Reporting levels can be driven by the fluidity of prisoner populations, varying significance, interpretation and subjective perceptions of particular circumstances and individuals, and the possibility of duplicative reporting. The number of SIRs submitted, therefore, does not provide a true reflection of risk.

There is therefore a sensitivity in listing the prisons who logged security information reports of incidents which might relate to manifestations of attempted radicalisation.

I will write privately to the hon. Member.

Prisoners: Wales

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what provision is being made in prisons serving North Wales to ensure that rehabilitation, education and support services take into account the fact that many prisoners in such prisons have Welsh as their first language; and if he will make a statement. [15656]

Mr Blunt: At present prisons in the North West and the West Midlands take prisoners from North Wales. There will also be some prisoners held in the high security estate, due to the nature of their offence. The majority of prisoners from North Wales are held in HMP Altcourse, which has established a wide range of Welsh language provision specifically to support Welsh language speakers. This includes learning and skills provision. Also, those organisations that would be involved in the resettlement of prisoners back to their communities in North Wales would also provide Welsh language services as required.

I am looking to increase access to Welsh language services for prisoners who have Welsh as their first language throughout the prison estate. As part of that work, the National Offender Management Service is drafting Welsh Language Scheme, which is intended to be published for consultation later this year.

Prisons: Crimes of Violence

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many assaults on prisoners by prisoners were reported in each of the last three years; and how many additional days were added to the sentences of those responsible for such assaults in each such year. [15233]

Mr Blunt: The numbers of recorded prisoner-on-prisoner assault incidents for the last three calendar years (2007 to 2009) are detailed in the following table.

England and Wales

	Assault incidents
Prisoner on prisoner	
2007	12,018
2008	12,834
2009	12,147

Data sources and quality:
These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems. Care is taken when processing and analysing the returns but the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system, and so although shown to the last case, the figures may not be accurate to that level.

Additional days arise from adjudication outcomes. Data on adjudications count the number of offences and punishments given rather than the number of prisoners charged with those offences. The following table gives details of offences punished: the total number of punishments given and the number of times additional days were given as a punishment for assault on a prisoner by a prisoner in 2007, 2008 and 2009.

England and Wales

	Assault incidents		
	2007	*2008*	*2009*
Prisoner on prisoner			
Number of offences punished	3,319	3,643	3,350
Number of punishments:	6,020	6,830	6,661
Of which:			
Additional days given	225	210	213

Data sources and quality:
These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems. Care is taken when processing and analysing the returns but the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system, and so although shown to the last case, the figures may not be accurate to that level.

The figures are taken from Table 8.4 of the Ministry of Justice Statistics bulletin "Offender Management Caseload Statistics" available at the MoJ website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonandprobation.htm

The figures in the bulletins cover all proven adjudication offences committed and punishments given for these breaches of prison discipline. More than one punishment can be given for a single offence.

Prisons: Employment

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners in each open prison have employment outside prison. [14283]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice does not hold this information centrally. NOMS delegates authority for negotiating prisoner work placements to the governors of the 26 prisons in the 'Resettlement Estate', along with responsibility for risk assessment, health and safety at work, and public protection. Normally a period will have been spent undertaking voluntary work before employment will be considered.

An ad hoc survey carried out in June 2009 recorded 482 prisoners held in England and Wales working outside prisons in a variety of employment, and work experience placements. Details by establishment are in the following table:

Region	*Prison*	*Employment placements*
East Midlands	Ashwell	—
	Morton Hall	4
	North Sea Camp	12
	Sudbury	79
East of England	Hollesley Bay	27
London	Latchmere House	58
North East	Kirklevington Grange	45
	Low Newton	—
North West	Kirkham	31
South East	Blantyre House	36
	Downview	9
	Ford	19
	Spring Hill	31
	Reading	2
	Rochester	2
	Send	5
	Standford Hill	29
	Dartmoor	2
South West	Eastwood Park	0
	Erlestoke	0
	Leyhill	39
Wales	Prescoed	6
West Midlands	Hewell	15
	Stoke Heath	0
Yorkshire and Humberside	Askham Grange	16
	Moorland	15
Total		482

Prisons: Wales

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his policy is on proposals for the construction of a new prison in north Wales. [16145]

Mr Blunt: In October 2009, the Ministry of Justice began a site search for sites suitable for 1,500 place prisons in the priority areas of north west England, north Wales, west Yorkshire and Greater London as part of the new prisons programme. A number of sites in north Wales have been put forward.

We will ensure that we meet prison capacity requirements more efficiently to improve value for money for the taxpayer and contribute savings to help reduce the budget deficit and the new prisons programme is consistent with those objectives.

Rape and Sexual Offences: Convictions

Alan Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the conviction rate was for cases of *(a)* rape and *(b)* sexual assault in the latest period for which figures are available; and how many women reported (i) rape and (ii) sexual assault to police in the latest period for which figures are available. [16057]

Mr Blunt: The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for the offences: rape of a male; rape of a female; sexual assault on a male; and sexual assault on a female; and conviction ratio of guilty defendants against those proceeded against for England and Wales, 2008 (latest available) is shown in table 1.

Data for 2009 will be published on 21 October 2010.

Information held by the Home Office on sexual offences against females recorded by the police in England and Wales, 2009-10 (latest available) is shown in table 2.

The Home Office collects data on the number of police recorded offences of rape of a female and sexual assault on a female but does not collect data on individuals reporting an offence, so cannot identify which of these offences were reported by women.

Table 1: Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty[1] [2] at all courts for the offences: rape of a male; rape of a female; sexual assault on a male; and sexual assault on a female; and conviction ratios of guilty against those proceeded against, England and Wales, 2008[3]

Offence class	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Conviction ratio (%)[4]*
Rape of a male	162	67	41
Rape of a female	2,233	855	38
Sexual assault on a male	295	228	77
Sexual assault on a female	3,069	1,892	62

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

[4] The conviction ratio is the number of defendants found guilty in 2008 divided by the number of defendants proceeded against whose case was concluded in 2008. *Source:* Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Table 2: Sexual offences against females recorded by the police in England and Wales, 2009-10

Offence	*Number recorded crime*
Rape of a female aged 16 and over	9,102
Rape of a female child under 16	2,926
Rape of a female child under 13	1,963
Rape of a female	13,991
Sexual assault on a female aged 13 and over	15,713
Sexual assault on a female child under 13	4,160
Assault of a female	19,873

Source:
VCS, Home Office.

Rape: Rights of Accused

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 27 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 923W, on rape: rights of accused, for what reason he decided to consider anonymity for defendants in rape cases up to the point of charge; whether he is considering anonymity for defendants up to the point of charge for any other offences; if he will report to the House the outcome of his Department's consideration of the matter since July 2010; on what date in September 2010 he plans to publish the assessment of the existing research and statistics; when he plans to introduce legislative proposals; and if he will make a statement. [16392]

Mr Blunt: We will publish the independent research assessment and make our considered views known shortly.

Reoffenders

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what mechanism he plans to introduce for payment-by-results schemes to reduce re-offending rates among offenders; and if he will make a statement. [16014]

Mr Blunt: The Government are committed to introducing payment by results as part of a new approach to offender rehabilitation. We plan to commission providers to work with offenders to reduce reoffending, paid for by the subsequent savings generated in the criminal justice system.

The Social Impact Bond at HMP Peterborough, launched on 10 September 2010, is an example of the innovative approach we want to take towards reducing reoffending.

Officials in the Ministry of Justice are developing proposals for the introduction of further payment by results approaches. The outcome of this work will be published for consultation in the forthcoming Green Paper on offender rehabilitation.

Secure Training Centres: Restraint Techniques

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on how occasions restraint techniques have been used on *(a)* boys and *(b)* girls for the purposes of maintaining good order and discipline in secure training centres in each month since April 1998. [15868]

Mr Blunt: The following table shows the use of restraint for reasons of good order and discipline by month and gender. Data on the reasons for restraint have only been collected centrally by the Youth Justice Board since April 2008. Data are only available up to July 2008, as changes to the secure training centre (STC) rules made at this time precluded STCs from using restraint for the purposes of good order and discipline.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and may be subject to change over time.

	2008		
Month	*Total*	*Male*	*Female*
April	2	0	2
May	0	0	0
June	3	1	2
July	9	4	5

I would like to also draw attention to two answers given by my predecessor the hon. Member for Garston and Halewood (Maria Eagle) to the then hon. Member for Cambridge (David Howarth) on 15 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 67-70W, and to the then hon. Member for Cardiff North (Julie Morgan) on 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 164-66W, which referred to the reasons for restraint. In these answers the number of restraints for reasons of good order and discipline in STCs in April 2008 was given as four. This was incorrect due to a data error and should have been two, as per the answer in the table above. These two occasions are for Rainsbrook STC, and Medway STC should read as 0.

Sentencing

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many convictions resulted in a community sentence in each of the last three years; and what the aggregate length of such sentences was in each such year. [15552]

Mr Blunt: The number of persons sentenced to community sentences and the total persons sentenced, as recorded on the courts proceedings database, in the last three years for which data are available is shown in table 1 as follows. The figures in table 1 refer to all community sentences. Data for 2009 will be available once Sentencing Statistics 2009 is published on 21 October 2010. The length of a community sentence is not recorded on the courts proceedings database so it is not possible to give the aggregate length of all community sentences from this source.

Information from Offender Management Caseload Statistics provided in table 2, shows the length of community sentences as recorded by the probation service. The figures in this table refer to community orders (which are a specific type of community sentence).

Table 1: Persons sentenced to community sentences and total sentenced at all courts, 2006-08[1] [2]

	2006	*2007*	*2008*
Total community sentences	190,837	196,424	190,171
Total offenders sentenced	1,412,940	1,406,788	1,353,937

[1] The figures given in the table relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Justice Statistics—Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice.

Table 2: Offenders starting community order supervision by the probation service with average length of order, 2006-09

	2006	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
All offenders	111,752	117,860	120,743	122,796
Average length of order (months)	17.6	15.7	14.9	13.0

Data sources and quality These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems. Care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, but the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system, and so although shown to the last individual, the figures may not be accurate to that level. See Technical appendix of report for fuller information. *Source:* Justice Statistics—Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice.

Sentencing: Wales

Jonathan Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what assessment he has made of the outcomes of the intensive alternatives to custody pilot schemes in South Wales and Dyfed-Powys; [16086]

(2) whether he plans to extend the implementation of the intensive alternatives to the custody scheme pilot. [16087]

Mr Blunt: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) has commissioned several independent studies of the intensive alternative to custody (IAC) projects, including the South Wales and Dyfed-Powys schemes. One study will establish whether an impact evaluation will be feasible and affordable. Depending on the outcome, and available resources, a proposal for an outcome evaluation on reoffending will be submitted for approval to the Ministry of Justice Research Quality Assurance Board and costs agreed with lead policy officers.

At present there are no plans to extend central funding for IAC past the end of the pilot in 2011. However, each of the pilot areas is looking at ways that IAC could be mainstreamed within existing resources.

Television: Licensing

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people in Leeds North West constituency have been prosecuted for not having a television licence in the last 12 months. [16068]

Mr Blunt: The number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts for the offence of television licence evasion under the Communications Act 2003, in the West Yorkshire police force area for 2008 (latest available), was 6,652. Figures are not available at constituency level so police force area level data have been provided in lieu.

The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Data for 2009 will be published on 21 October 2010. The publication date for 2010 figures has not been finalised but will be announced on the UK National Statistics release calendar.

Tyres

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies take into account rolling resistance as a performance criterion when purchasing tyres. [13548]

Mr Blunt: Vehicles are procured using pan-government lease and purchase framework agreements and are supplied with tyres specified by the manufacturer. Rolling resistance will be a factor taken into account by vehicle manufacturers as it will have an effect on published fuel economy performance figures

Tyres are replaced in accordance with contractual agreements, utilising national chains to ensure that discounts are fully optimised and value for money is obtained.

The overriding requirements with regard to tyre replacements are primarily directed towards legal and health and safety requirements, fitness for purpose, and value for money. Rolling resistance is not taken into account as a performance criterion when tyres are due to be replaced, but emphasis is placed on ensuring that tyres are checked on a regular basis, and are inflated to the correct pressures.

War Memorials: Vandalism

Paul Maynard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will bring forward legislative proposals to provide war memorials with protection in law from defacement or defilement. [16042]

Mr Blunt: Having examined the law in this area, we think existing legislation on criminal damage deals appropriately with offenders who deface, defile or otherwise damage war memorials.

As the law stands, where the value of criminal damage is less than £5,000, the offence will be tried in a magistrates court and the maximum penalty available is three months' imprisonment. If the damage exceeds £5,000 and the case is tried in the magistrates court the maximum penalty is six months' imprisonment. If tried on indictment the maximum penalty is 10 years' imprisonment, and 14 years if the offence is racially or religiously motivated.

This is an emotive issue and we fully understand why many people think the existing sentencing framework does not reflect the seriousness of the crime. But judges and magistrates can—and do—have regard to the special status of war memorials when sentencing an offender for criminal damage. That special status may aggravate any sentence imposed, within the constraints of the maximum penalties agreed by Parliament for this type of offence.

Youth Justice: Public Consultation

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what mechanisms are in place to take account of the views of young people in his Department's policy on youth justice. [16036]

Mr Blunt: We are committed to ensuring that the public, including young people, have the opportunity to participate in shaping policies which will affect them.

For example, the Youth Justice Board (YJB) is currently engaging with young people on designing a new framework for assessing young offenders' needs when they enter the CJS.

The YJB also supports practitioners in youth offending teams and the custodial estate to increase their skills in securing greater youth participation at local level.

In the Ministry of Justice we are planning a programme to inform and engage young people in criminal justice issues, and particularly to help young people contribute their views to the forthcoming Rehabilitation and Sentencing Green Paper which will include a chapter on youth justice. We will do this through working with partners, stakeholders and local communities who engage with young people, as well as through direct channels including the internet and social media.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Banks: Loans

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to increase *(a)* entrepreneurial activity and *(b)* levels of bank lending to businesses in Witham constituency. [15733]

Mr Davey: The Prime Minister has set out his ambition to make this decade the most entrepreneurial and dynamic in our history. To realise this ambition, my hon. Friend the Minister of State for Business and Enterprise, is developing a strategy for enterprise which challenges aspirations and capability, modernises business support, supports cash flow and access to finance, reduces burdens and transforms opportunities for individuals and their communities.

Ensuring the flow of credit to business is a key priority for the Government and we recently published a Green Paper, "Financing a private sector recovery", requesting the views of individuals, businesses and financial institutions. The Government will respond in due course.

As well as continuing to push banks to lend to viable businesses, the Government have extended the Enterprise Finance Guarantee (EFG) scheme by £200 million to £700 million. As of 8 September 2010, 16 businesses in the constituency of Witham have been offered loans totalling £2.69 million, of which 15 businesses have drawn down £2.65 million.

Broadband: North East and North West

Ian Swales: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the proportion of households in *(a)* Redcar constituency, *(b)* the North-East and *(c)* the North-West which will have access to next generation broadband in each of the next five years. [15840]

Mr Vaizey: This Department has not made such estimation for these areas. The Government are committed to ensuring the UK has the best superfast broadband network in Europe by 2015, including the delivery of superfast broadband to rural and remote areas at the same time as in more populated areas.

Business Link West Midlands: Finance

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 8 September 2010, *Official Report*, columns 522-3W, on Business Link West Midlands, what arrangements will be established to channel funding for Business Link West Midlands following the ending of regional development agencies. [16108]

Mr Prisk: The Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) are due to be abolished in March 2012. This Department is currently considering how business support, information and advice will be provided once the RDAs are abolished.

No decision on future arrangements will be made until all the options have been considered against the outcome of the Comprehensive Spending Review.

Business Links: Expenditure

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of training and employing Business Link advisers in the latest period for which figures are available. [16368]

Mr Prisk: The cost of training and employing field-based Business Link advisers in 2009/10 was £55.95 million.

This excludes expenses and overheads.

Business Links: Redcar

Ian Swales: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many businesses operating in Redcar constituency contacted Business Link in each of the last five years. [15865]

Mr Prisk: In the Redcar and Cleveland local authority area, Business Link had contact with the following number of businesses in the last five financial year periods. The following data are based on the number of unique customers assisted throughout the year, and represents customers who have received support through the Information, Diagnostic and Brokerage (IDB) service.

Financial year	*Number of customers assisted*
2006-07	520
2007-08	354
2008-09	537
2009-10	589
2010-11[1]	273

[1] YTD.

In the north east, the Business Link service has been delivered by Business and Enterprise North East since April 2007. The figures prior to that date are based on data obtained from the Business Link Tees Valley Customer Record Management system. Business Link does not hold data at constituency level.

Business: Government Assistance

Ian Swales: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many businesses operating in Redcar constituency received funding from one or more schemes operated by his Department and its predecessors in each of the last five years. [15837]

Mr Prisk: The following table shows that 31 businesses were supported in the last five years through the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) schemes: Grant for Business Investment (GBI), (formerly known as Selective Finance for Investment in England or SFIE grants) and Grants for Research and Development (GRD) in Redcar constituency. A total of 34 projects were supported through the Manufacturing Advisory Service, MAS-NE. The grants are managed by the regional development agency, One North East. The value amount represents the maximum grant potentially payable if the projects are satisfactorily completed.

	Data range 2005/06 to 2009/10	
Scheme	*Number of businesses*	*Value (£)*
GBI and R and D	31	6,265,934
MAS-NE	34	419,027
Total	65	7,061,461

Ian Swales: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills to which *(a)* organisations and *(b)* projects in Redcar constituency his Department has made a grant in the last five years; and how much each such grant was. [15838]

Mr Prisk: The following table shows details of the organisations and businesses in the Redcar and Cleveland local authority area in the last five financial year that have received grants through the following Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) schemes: Grant for Business Investment (GBI), (formerly known as Selective Finance for Investment in England or SFIE grants), Grants for Research and Development (GRD), and The Manufacturing Advisory Service (MAS). Only GBI data are kept at constituency level.

Project name	*Proposer*	*Total funding (£)*
Expansion of IT refurbishment and recycling facilities	Recycling It Europe Ltd	75,000
To acquire additional plant and machinery expansion	Waste Exchange Services Ltd	100,000
	Cleveland Components Ltd	25,000
Relocation	Northern Site Supplies Ltd	10,000
Start up	Wilton Waste Treatment Ltd	120,000
Purchase new machinery	Cleveland Technologies Ltd	34,000
Purchase machinery	Signet Joinery and Laminate Products Direct Ltd	12,500
Flexible substrates development facility	Centre for Process Innovation Ltd (CPI)	1,869,781
COBR (Continuous Oscillatory Baffle Reactor) (OFBR)	CPI	122,548
National Industrial Biotechnology Facility (NIBF)	CPI	7,017,985
UK National Particulates MNT Centre	CPI	191,920
CIN sustainable manufacturing	CPI	989,789
NE Environment and Energy Services Co (NE ESCO)[1]	CPI	86,967
PeTec LACE	CPI	1,547,655
Bioprocessing technology development	CPI	444,420
Patterned Substrates Project	CPI	2,425,000
Materials for device fabrication	CPI	2,345,000
Fuel Lab	CPI	524,297
Energy and environmental technology sector support	CPI	1,498,594
CPI development and research	CPI	5,901,661
CPI NE Energy 2015	CPI	432,000
CPI LCE development and support network centre	CPI	1,818,125
CPI Atomic Layer Deposition	CPI	450,000
CPI Advanced Coating Facilities	CPI	1,101,300
CPI BioSource	CPI	1,360,000
CPI Novel Particulates NP3	CPI	1,229,957
Wilton Connector—process business incubator	CPI	783,303
Integrated Innovation Support Program 2	CPI	563,771
Cheminet	CPI	72,429
Fuel Cell Applications Facility (FCAF)	CPI	1,996,279
DupontSA productivity and general management training project	Dupont Sabanci Polyester (UK) Ltd	600,000
National Micro Fluidics Centre (Fluence)	Epigem Ltd	1,999,923
North East Process Industries Cluster	The North East of England Process Industry Cluster (NEPIC)	2,597,409
Resource Efficiency—Process Industries	NEPIC	120,999
Delivery of the Regional Biofuels Strategy	NEPIC	1,198,000
Process Pillar—NEPIC Skills/Prod Project	NEPIC Process Industry	141,500
Process Pillar—PICME Productivity Programme	Centre for Manufacturing (PICME)	102,754
Redcar Sea Front Zone	Redcar and Cleveland borough council	170,000
Redcar and Cleveland Regeneration Masterplan	Redcar and Cleveland borough council	378,963

Project name	*Proposer*	*Total funding (£)*
REMTEC & REMTEC ERDF[1]	TWI Ltd	1,347,870
Gap Funding UK Steel Enterprise	UK Steel Enterprise	1,076,881
Renew Tees Valley and Environment Sector Support ERDF[1]	Renew Tees Valley (RTV) Ltd	2,462,250
Process Industries NBOHI[1]	CPI	135,963
Aquisition and Demolition of Leo's	Redcar and Cleveland borough council	200,000
Coatham Links Lifehouse Studies	Redcar and Cleveland borough council	44,880
South Tees Strategy (STS)—Acquisitions	Redcar and Cleveland borough council	180,000
STS—Gateways Ph.3	Redcar and Cleveland borough council	229,439
South Tees Prairies Environmental Industries Park	Redcar and Cleveland borough council	350,625
South Tees Eco Park	Redcar and Cleveland borough council	1,449,379
STS—Teesport Commerce Park	Redcar and Cleveland borough council	16,900
STS—Phytoremediation Feas.	Redcar and Cleveland borough council	20,000
STS—Teesport Diversification Dry Bulk	Redcar and Cleveland borough council	30,000
	Total Redcar and Cleveland constituency	50,003,016

[1] Includes ERDF.

Note:

Excludes regional and sub-regional delivered projects including Skills and Economic Inclusion Inward Investment, Culture and Tourism.

Connaught Partnerships: Redundancy

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will take steps to assist staff who have been made redundant since the entry into administration of Connaught Partnerships. [16219]

Mr Davey: Former employees of insolvent employers can claim redundancy payments and other contractual debts such as unpaid wages, notice pay and outstanding holiday pay from the National Insurance Fund. The Insolvency Service's Birmingham Redundancy Payments Office (RPO) is liaising with the administrator of Connaught to establish what payments are due. Once the information is obtained to identify what payments are due they will be made without delay. The RPO aims to pay 78% of claims within three weeks of receipt and 92% within six weeks of receipt.

Jobcentre Plus, through its rapid response service (RRS), offers access to a wide range of support for employers and employees. As well as advice on how to claim benefits, assistance includes identifying transferable skills, job-related training, and support to take up a new job, e.g. help with initial travel or child care costs. This support is provided by Jobcentre Plus, skills bodies, development agencies and local authorities. The administrator is liaising directly with the Jobcentre Plus national account manager who is co-ordinating the assistance through to local levels.

Copyright: Internet

Mr Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has to respond to the policy recommendations of the Strategic Advisory Board for Intellectual Property Policy in respect of the proposed Google Books initiative. [16195]

Mr Davey: The Government have noted the recommendations of SABIP on this issue. Any settlement on the Google Books initiative will only apply to use of the works in the US and is primarily a matter for the US courts. However, the Government continue to monitor developments on this issue carefully and to consider the wider issues raised by this case, including the potential benefits of mass digitisation of creative works to increase legitimate access to these works for research, consumers and other businesses.

Corus

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* Corus-Tata and *(b)* Sahaviriya Steel Industries on the future of the Corus plant on Teesside. [15834]

Mr Prisk: Tata Steel has continued to keep the Department informed of developments in respect of the Teesside Cast Products plant. Since his appointment in May, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business Innovation and Skills has met Ratan Tata on two occasions, and he also spoke to Kirby Adams, former chief executive officer of Tata Steel Europe (formerly Corus) when the Memorandum of Understanding with Sahaviriya Steel Industries Public Company Ltd (SSI) on the potential sale of Teesside Cast Products was announced on 27 August. Most recently, the UK ambassador in Bangkok and his team have also had discussions with SSI since the announcement of the Memorandum of Understanding.

Departmental Billing

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many payments to suppliers were made by *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies (i) within 30 days of, (ii) over 30 days after, (iii) over 60 days after and (iv) over 90 days after the date of invoice in the latest period for which figures are available. [13933]

Mr Davey: During August 2010 the Department made the following payments to its suppliers:

Time Period	*Number paid*	*Percentage*
Within 30 days of the date of the invoice date	1,714	79.6

Time Period	*Number paid*	*Percentage*
Between 31 and 60 days of the invoice date	203	9.4
Between 61 days and 90 days of the invoice date	64	3.0
Over 90 days of the date of the invoice	171	7.9

However, the above figures do not take into account those invoices that were placed in dispute, those invoices that were submitted to the wrong address or those that were post dated.

For information, the Department measures its prompt payment from the date a valid invoice is received at its nominated address. Using this measurement, the Department paid 99.6% of invoices within 30 days and 93.9% were paid within five working days.

I have approached the chief executives of the Insolvency Service, Companies House, the National Measurement Office, the Intellectual Property Office and the Skills Funding Agency and they will respond to my hon. Friend directly.

Information on the Department's non-departmental public bodies is not held centrally and to provide it would incur disproportionate cost.

Letter from Gareth Jones:

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled 3 September 2010, UIN 13933 to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

In 2009/10, the latest period for which figures are available, Companies House made 9,906 payments to suppliers within 30 days of the date of the invoice and 48 payments after 30 days of the date of the invoice. Of these, 37 were as a result of disputes. No payments would be over 60 days old.

Letter from Geoff Russell, dated 9 September 2010:

I am replying on behalf of the Skills Funding Agency to your Parliamentary question tabled on 3 September 2010 (UIN 13933). To ask the Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, how many payments to suppliers were made by (a) his Department, (b) its agencies and (c) its non-departmental public bodies (i) within 30 days of, (ii) over 30 days after, (iii) over 60 days after and (iv) over 90 days after the date of invoice in the latest period for which figures are available.

The Skills Funding Agency was set up as an agency of BIS on 1 April 2010 and the figures are detailed overleaf from Period 1 to Period 5 - 1 April 2010 to 31 August 2010.

Payment of suppliers	*Number of invoices paid*	*Percentage of invoices paid*
Within 30 days	4,941	88.39
Over 30 and under 60 days	503	9.00
Over 60 and under 90 days	97	1.74
Over 90 days	49	0.87

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 7 September 2010:

The Secretary of State for Business Innovation and Skills has asked me to reply to your question how many payments to suppliers were made by (a) his Department, (b) its agencies and (c) its non-departmental public bodies (i) within 30 days of, (ii) over 30 days after, (iii) over 60 days after and (iv) over 90 days after the date of invoice in the latest period for which figures are available.

The Insolvency Service Executive Agency of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills made the following payments to suppliers in the period April to August 2010:

(i) 10,371 within 30 days;

(ii) 84 payments over 30 days;

(iii) 8 payments over 60 days and

(iv) 4 payments over 90 days

after the date of invoice.

Letter from Peter Mason, dated 20 September 2010:

I am responding in respect of the National Measurement Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 3 September 2010, to the Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills asking how many payments to suppliers were made (i) within 30 days of, (ii) over 30 days after, (iii) over 60 days after and (iv) over 90 days after the date of invoice in the latest period for which figures are available.

Between April 2009 and March 2010, the Agency made a total of 1,906 payments to suppliers of which:

(i) 1,885 payments were made within 30 days of receiving an invoice which was correctly rendered.

(ii) 21 payments took over 30 days to process.

(iii) No payments were made where an invoice was over 60 days old and

(iv) No payments were made where an invoice was over 90 days old.

Letter from John Alty, dated 24 September 2010:

I am responding in respect of the Intellectual Property Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 07 September 2010, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The Intellectual Property Office has analysed the above in the following ways. The first column is invoice paid in the period within 30 days of the invoice date. The second column shows all the invoices paid more than 30 days after the invoice date (including invoices more than 60 and 90 days over). The third column shows all the invoices paid more than 60 days after the invoice date (including invoices more than 90 days over). The fourth column shows all invoices paid more than 90 days over.

The Office's target to pay invoices within 10 working days is reported in the annual report and accounts which is published on our website:

http://www.ipo.gov.uk/about-anrep0910.pdf

Supplier invoices	*Paid within 30 days*	*Paid over 30 days*	*Paid over 60 days*	*Paid over 90 days*
September 2009 to August 2010	4,663	347	124	77

We paid 89% of invoices within 10 days in financial year 2009/10.

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the average cost to his Department was of processing the payment of an invoice in the latest period for which figures are available; and what proportion of invoices settled in that period his Department paid *(a)* electronically and *(b)* by cheque. [16158]

Mr Davey: During August 2010, the Department made 4,223 payments of which 4,190 were made electronically and 33 were made by payable order.

During this period, the average cost of processing an invoice was £4.29. This includes direct staff costs and an apportionment for overheads.

Departmental Chief Scientific Advisers

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on how many occasions each Minister in his Department has met his Department's Chief Scientific Officer since 6 May 2010. [15439]

Mr Davey: Since 6 May, the chief scientific adviser in BIS, Professor Brian Collins, has met substantively with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills and President of the Board of Trade once, and the Minister for Universities and Science four times.

Departmental Contracts

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has made an estimate of the monetary value of the contracts between his Department and private sector companies which will be cancelled under his Department's planned spending reductions. [10167]

Mr Davey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Ochil and South Perthshire (Gordon Banks) on 7 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 430W.

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the monetary value is of contracts his Department has awarded to each *(a)* management consultancy and *(b)* IT company since 7 May 2010. [16192]

Mr Davey: The information is as follows:

(a) Central records indicate that the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has spent £1,428,752 on consultancy from 1 May to 30 September. This information is taken from a system which does not break the expenditure down by company.

(b) Central records indicate that no new contracts have been awarded to any IT companies since 7 May 2010.

Departmental Empty Property

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the estimated monetary value is of each vacant *(a)* building and *(b)* parcel of land owned by his Department in each region. [16255]

Mr Davey: This Department does not own any buildings or land. It is all leasehold.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department spent on hospitality for events hosted by each Minister in the Department in each of the last three years. [13471]

Mr Davey: The amounts spent on ministerial hospitality are as follows:

	£
2007-08	17,194.12
2008-09	11,784.10
2009-10	16,480.89

The above costs principally relate to conferences and receptions for key stakeholders.

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department spent on hospitality for events hosted by each Minister in his Department in July 2010. [15145]

Mr Davey: £221.39 in total for July 2010.

Departmental Pay

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what average hourly rate his Department has paid to each employment agency for agency staff in each year since its inception. [12712]

Mr Davey: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) has framework agreements with Adecco and Brook Street. The average is calculated using inner London charge rates based on the grades employed through each of these agencies in 2009-10:

Adecco: £15.59
Brook Street: £14.84.

To establish this information for other agencies used by BIS would be disproportionately expensive to obtain.

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills was created in June 2009.

Departmental Press: Subscriptions

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department spent on newspapers, periodicals and trade profession magazines in each year since its inception. [16236]

Mr Davey: Expenditure on newspapers, periodicals and trade profession magazines is not separately itemised in the Department's accounting system, and the details could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will take steps to assess the effects on *(a)* equality of incomes, *(b)* equality of assets and *(c)* equality of access to services of measures relating to its expenditure under consideration in the spending review. [16358]

Mr Davey: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills will ensure the relevant equality considerations are taken in to account in the context of expenditure under consideration in the spending review, in compliance with our obligations under the Sex Discrimination Act 1975, the Race Relations Act 1976, and the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.

Departmental Secondment

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many staff his Department has appointed on secondment since 7 May 2010; and from what organisation each such member of staff has been seconded. [16276]

Mr Davey: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has not appointed any staff on secondment since 7 May 2010.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many employees on temporary contracts *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies, *(c)* its non-Ministerial department and *(d)* its non-departmental public bodies had on the latest date for which figures are available. [5932]

Mr Davey: The number of full-time equivalent employees on temporary contracts on 30 June 2010 in BIS was 200.

I have approached the chief executives of the Insolvency Service, Companies House, the National Measurement Office, the Intellectual Property Office and the Skills Funding Agency and they will respond to my hon. Friend directly.

Information on the Department's non-departmental public bodies is not held centrally and to provide it would incur disproportionate cost.

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 5 July 2010:

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled 30 June 2010, UIN 5932 to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

As of 7 July, Companies House has eleven employees on temporary contracts.

Letter from Geoff Russell, dated 5 July 2010:

I am replying on behalf of the Skills Funding Agency to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 30 June 2010 (UIN 5932), to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, concerning the number of employees on temporary contracts in the Department and its agencies.

As of 1 July 2010, the Skills Funding Agency had four temporary workers.

Letter from John Alty, dated 5 July 2010:

I am responding in respect of the Intellectual Property Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 30/06/2010, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The Intellectual Property Office has 1 person employed on contract that is due to finish on 22 July and will not be extended.

Letter from Peter Mason, dated 19 July 2010:

I am responding in respect of the National Measurement Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 30 June 2010, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills asking how many employees were on temporary contracts on the latest date for which figures are available.

As of today's date, NMO does not have any employees on temporary contracts. We have one vacancy currently being covered by an agency staff worker, who is an employee of that employment agency, not NMO.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 3 July 2010:

The Minister of State, for the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) has asked me to reply to your question how many employees on temporary contracts (a) his Department, (b) its agencies, (c) its non-Ministerial department and (d) its non-departmental public bodies had on the latest date for which figures are available.

The Insolvency Service currently employs 412 temporary staff.

Employment Agency

Mr David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the running costs of the Employment Agency Standards Inspectorate were in each of the last five years. [13703]

Mr Davey: The running costs for Employment Agency Standards in each of the last five years were:

Financial year	*Running costs (£)*
2005/06	427,967
2006/07	485,435
2007/08	507,220
2008/09	985,457
2009/10	1,072,608

Employment Schemes

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he made of the annual cost to the Exchequer of continuing the Job Guarantee scheme. [15218]

Chris Grayling: I have been asked to reply.

Any estimate of the cost of the jobseeker's guarantee was always subject to review as part of the spending review process to ensure good value for money. The cancellation of the scheme announced on 17 June was therefore not to save money. Rather, funding was never allocated to the jobseeker's guarantee in the first place.

Extractive Industries: Disclosure of Information

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what recent discussions he has had with his European counterparts on the introduction of a requirement for stock exchanges within the EU that all extractive companies listed disclose all payments to foreign Governments; and if he will make a statement; [16021]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the merits of the introduction of a country-by-country reporting standard of the type proposed by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB); what recent discussions he has had with the IASB on the matter; and if he will make a statement; [16022]

(3) if his Department will make an assessment of the effect on the UK extractive industry of the provisions of the US Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act 2010 on disclosure of payments made to foreign governments; and if he will make a statement. [16024]

Mr Davey: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has not had any discussions with his European counterparts about the disclosure of payments to foreign governments by the extractive industries.

The Secretary of State has noted the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act 2010 on disclosure of payments made to foreign governments.

but also notes that both the IASB and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) are both investigating international approaches to this kind of disclosure.

The IASB is an independent standard setter for global accounting standards. The UK Government have not engaged in any discussions about the specific content of accounting standards with IASB. There has been extensive engagement by UK stakeholders directly with the IASB on this issue.

The Government will consider action when they see the outcomes of these investigations, but note that international approaches are likely to work better than any national approach.

Genetically Modified Organisms: Public Consultation

Mr Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what projects on public attitudes to genetically-modified crops, food and feed have been funded by the *(a)* Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, *(b)* Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, *(c)* Medical Research Council and *(d)* Science and Technology Facilities Council since 1997; what the (i) topic, (ii) start date, (iii) cost and (iv) project code was of each such project; who the main contractor was in each case; and which such projects have been completed. [10865]

Mr Willetts: Some of BBSRC's public engagement activities since 1997 have included consideration of GM technologies, some of which *(a)* explicitly invited public views while others *(b)* were focused more on communication and raising awareness.

(a) BBSRC's public engagement activities which have included consideration of GM technologies and explicitly invited public views:

A co-sponsor of 'Future foods' exhibit at the Science Museum from November 1997 to March 1998

Interactive exhibition launched at the 1998 Royal show on GM that provided a focus for people to consider the issues and record their opinions

A display at the 1999 Royal Society Summer Science Exhibition that invited discussion on GM crops and their uses

Public consultation (with NERC) on gene flow in plants and micro-organisms in 2000

In 2000 BBSRC commissioned a short study of attitudes to GM bioremediation that made use of a novel tool, the Ethical Matrix.

In 2001 BBSRC hosted a web-based tool that explored hypothetical novel foods as part of a Foresight Food Chain and Crops Industry Panel initiative

In 2003 BBSRC held a consultation on the future direction of crop science research

The recent synthetic biology dialogue, published in June 2010 covered public views on agri-environmental science as one part of a workshop that explore views around science and technology generically. A later workshop with in the synthetic biology dialogue explored food and crop applications of synthetic biology.

(b) BBSRC's public engagement activities which have included consideration of GM technologies and were focused more on communication and raising awareness:

In 1999 BBSRC published two discussion documents on issues surrounding the use of GM in agriculture

In 1999 BBSRC supported an BA and Royal Society of Edinburgh forum that debated GM foods

In 2001 BBSRC supported a public evening meeting that accompanied the EUCARPIA XVI congress in Edinburgh, the meeting covered issues surrounding plant biotechnology

A panel discussion on future renewable bio-energy, including artificial photosynthesis in 2007

BBSRC has also supported its funded researchers through a small grants scheme to engage with the public, some of these grants have been used to discuss issues around GM, for instance: a 1998 discussion meeting on GM with the National Federation of Women's Institutes; a 2003 series of schools debates on 'genetic futures'; and a 2005 public discussion in Plymouth on GM.

None of these Research Councils have funded a separate research project specifically into public attitudes on GM since 1997. However, under the previous Government, the Food Standards Agency was asked by Ministers to carry out a public dialogue project looking at Food - the use of GM. The Government have recently announced that this dialogue will not continue in its current format. The details of the Government's policy on the use of GM technology in food and agriculture are still being determined, but all policies will be based on robust evidence. Developing effective and appropriate public engagement will need to be an element of this.

Higher Education

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will take steps to ensure *(a)* Greenwich University and *(b)* other former polytechnics retain university status. [15836]

Mr Willetts: The Department has no plans to remove university title from any institution in the higher education sector.

Higher Education: Mature Students

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of mature students who did not complete a higher education course in the latest period for which figures are available. [15823]

Mr Willetts: Estimates of the number of students who do not complete a higher education course are not available by age group. Non-continuation data, which show the number of entrants not continuing in higher education after their first year, are available by age group and are provided here as an alternative.

In the 2007/08 academic year there were 70,440 UK-domiciled mature entrants (aged 21 and over) to full-time first degree courses at higher education institutions in the UK. Of these entrants 9,875 (14.0%) did not continue in higher education after their first year. In the same academic year there were 31,550 UK-domiciled mature entrants to full-time other undergraduate courses (includes foundation degrees, diplomas and certificates) at higher education institutions in the UK. Of these entrants 4,620 (14.6%) did not continue in higher education after their first year.

This is the latest available information from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Performance Indicators in Higher Education: more information can be found at the following link:

http://www.hesa.ac.uk/index.php/content/category/2/32/141/

Non-completion and non-continuation data for postgraduate students are not provided in the HESA Performance Indicators in Higher Education.

Innovation

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to encourage businesses that develop new technologies to remain in the UK. [16411]

Mr Willetts: This Department sponsors the Technology Strategy Board, which operates across all important sectors of the UK economy, ranging from the creative industries to high value manufacturing, but focusing on those opportunities which offer the greatest scope for boosting UK growth and productivity.

The Technology Strategy Board provides funding opportunities (with support from other Government funders) to enable UK-based business and research communities to work together on collaborative R&D projects from which successful new products, processes and services can emerge. Over 900 projects are currently being supported with a combined business and Government investment of over £1 billion (with just over half the funds committed by business).

This Department similarly sponsors the grant for R&D (GRD), which is designed to increase business spend on innovation, including R&D, leading to an increase in the proportion of firms that innovate so that they can increase productivity and profitability. Businesses receiving funding must comply with strict rules on manufacture of products. The company shall not, without prior written consent, manufacture or permit the manufacture of articles incorporating the results of work done with the aid of this grant outside the European economic area for a period starting from the date of the offer letter and ending five years after the date on which final payment is made.

This Department is also considering the recommendations from Sir James Dyson's Report "Ingenious Britain" and will consult with business this autumn. This will include a review of the taxation of intellectual property and the support that R&D tax credits provide for innovation. This Department is similarly considering options for the future delivery of its 'Solutions for Business' portfolio of business support within the forthcoming comprehensive spending review.

Also, UK Trade & Investment (UKTI) does much to help businesses invest and locate in the UK and grow internationally. They do this through impartial advice—information related to funding, financing, staffing and operations; introductions to professional advisers and key contacts; access, through its partnership programmes, to a range of possible business partners and professional service organisations; practical help on the ground, including visits to suitable locations, finding business partners and accessing financial incentives; as well as an aftercare service, including advice on maximising investment in the UK, through domestic and international expansion.

Insolvency Service: Manpower

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many insolvency investigators were employed by the Insolvency Service in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010; and whether he expects any such investigators to be made redundant as a result of his Department's planned spending reductions. [16396]

Mr Davey: The Insolvency Service employs insolvency examiners who, among their various duties, investigate the causes of failure in bankruptcy and compulsory company liquidation cases. In addition, The Insolvency Service employs staff within its Investigation and Enforcement Services (IES) Directorate whose job it is to consider reports received from licensed insolvency practitioners in respect of the conduct of directors of companies in non-compulsory insolvency procedures and complaints about live companies and to investigate and take action where it is appropriate in the public interest.

The number of Insolvency Service staff who would undertake these duties (among other things) in each of the last three years is as follows:

	Number
(a) 2010	757
(b) 2009	714
(c) 2008	696

There are currently no plans for staff redundancies.

Internet: Regulation

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 6 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 371W, on internet regulation, if he will bring forward legislative proposals to require internet providers to divulge the contact details of persons who leave derogatory or insulting comments about others on internet sites; what recent representations he has received on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [15752]

Mr Vaizey: The Government are not proposing to bring forward legislative proposals that would require internet service providers (ISPs) to reveal the contact details of persons who might have left derogatory or insulting remarks about others on internet sites.

Local Enterprise Partnerships

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his most recent estimate is of the set up costs associated with implementing the Government's proposals for local enterprise partnerships. [16407]

Mr Prisk: In total the Government received 59 outline proposals for local enterprise partnerships in response to the joint letter from my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills and my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, dated 29 June. Proposals have been developed at local levels by partnerships of local authorities, businesses and other relevant bodies.

Ministers are considering these proposals in detail, looking at how they will support economic growth, before providing feedback to partnerships.

More detail on local enterprise partnerships, including funding issues, will be set out in the White Paper on sub-national economic growth following the spending review.

Lord Sugar

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what resources his Department provided to assist Lord Sugar in his role as Government Enterprise Champion; and how many days Lord Sugar spent on official duties in this role. [15734]

Mr Prisk: The Department did not provide resources to Lord Sugar. The position of Government Enterprise Champion was unpaid and Lord Sugar neither claimed nor received any expenses. Support for his work was provided by civil servants, primarily those responsible for enterprise, as part of their normal day-to-day responsibilities. His time in the role was spent working in the Department, on visits, meeting businesses and working remotely. He was in continuous, near daily, communication throughout the period of his appointment.

Manufacturing Advisory Service

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what the cost to the public purse was of the free helpline provided by his Department's Manufacturing Advisory Service in the latest period for which figures are available; [16402]

(2) how many businesses used the free helpline provided by the Manufacturing Advisory Service in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2009-10; [16403]

(3) how much the Manufacturing Advisory Service spent on subsidised consultancy support for small and medium-sized enterprises in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2009-10; and how many businesses used that support service in each such year. [16404]

Mr Prisk: The helpline for the Manufacturing Advisory Service is part of the wider inquiry service which includes e-mail inquiries and phone calls. These range from straightforward questions dealt with in a few minutes to more significant issues that require small pieces of research to support the manufacturer.

The total cost of the inquiry service in 2009/10 was £590,000 including all staff and equipment costs.

The number of businesses using the inquiry service is as follows:

	Number of businesses using inquiry service
2007/08	[1]20,141
2008/09	11,148
2009/10	18,270

[1] Includes website.

The number of businesses and the total cost of subsidised consultancy support is as follows:

	Number of subsidised consultancy projects	*Total cost (£)*	*Client contribution (£)*	*Cost to MAS (£)*
2007/08	2,326	7,500,000	3,750,000	3,750,000
2008/09	2,526	8,280,000	4,140,000	4,140,000
2009/10	2,443	7,700,000	3,890,000	3,890,000

Multinational Companies: Company Accounts

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will make it his policy to implement country-by-country reporting for multi-national companies based in the UK. [15663]

Mr Davey: The Government will consider action when they see the outcomes from the international work currently under way by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the International Accounting Standards Board. The Government support this work and await the outcome with interest.

Overseas Students: Bexley

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students resident in the London Borough of Bexley are registered as international students for tuition fee purposes due to their immigration status. [15825]

Mr Willetts: The information requested is not available.

Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will review the processes of the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education in order to reduce the burden of administration for academics and university departments, whilst ensuring the effectiveness of those processes. [15809]

Mr Willetts: Significant work is under way across the higher education sector to strengthen future quality assurance arrangements. The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) launched on 1 October a consultation on a new method for reviewing higher education institutions in England and Northern Ireland from September 2011. The proposed new process is intended to encourage constant improvement in the quality of UK higher education while being proportionate in its demand on resources in institutions. The detail of this work is rightly led by the sector but the Government have a legitimate interest, particularly in respect of ensuring value for money for all public spending, and is keeping in close touch with the QAA and others across the sector on this agenda.

Regional Development Agencies

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department plans to bring forward primary legislation to *(a)* abolish regional development agencies and *(b)* establish local economic partnerships. [16080]

Mr Prisk: Primary legislation will be required to abolish regional development agencies. Local enterprise partnerships will differ across the country in order to best meet local circumstances and opportunities. The Government are considering whether it will be necessary to introduce legislation to create local enterprise partnerships.

Regional Growth Fund

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what bidding process for funds from the Regional Growth Fund will apply in each region. [14622]

Mr Prisk: The Government published a consultation paper on 23 July seeking views on the design of the fund. The paper set out the objectives of the Regional

Growth Fund, put forward proposals on the fund's design to meet those objectives and posed questions on aspects of the fund where Government sought input, including the bidding process.

The consultation closed on 6 September and consideration is now being given to the detail of the operation of the Growth Fund. This will then be set out in the White Paper on sub-national growth, due to be published in the autumn.

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what consultation he has undertaken with local authorities on the bidding process for the Regional Growth Fund. [15790]

Mr Prisk: The Government published a consultation on the Regional Growth Fund on 23 July, seeking views on how the fund should be designed.

By the time the consultation closed on 6 September, around 340 responses had been received in total. Over 100 of these were from local authorities, bodies that represent groups of local authorities, existing multi-area agreement partnerships and prospective local enterprise partnerships that include local authorities.

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether the methodology his Department will employ in allocating monies from the Regional Growth Fund will take into account economic and social inequalities within regions; and if he will make a statement. [15999]

Mr Prisk: The Government published a consultation on the Regional Growth Fund, seeking views on how the fund should be designed. The consultation closed on 6 September and the responses received are now being considered with a view to publishing further information on the design and implementation of the Regional Growth Fund as part of the White Paper on sub-national growth, expected later in the autumn.

Research: Finance

Mr Gyimah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what research and development grants his Department provides to innovative small businesses; and what arrangements his Department plans to make for access to such grants after the ending of the South East of England Development Agency. [16137]

Mr Willetts: The Government's current 'Solutions for Business' portfolio of business support products includes the Grant for Research and Development, which provides grants of up to £500,000 to support businesses in developing new technological products and processes, and Innovation Vouchers, which range from £3,000 to £10,000 and can be used by small businesses to support their collaboration with research institutions.

The Government are currently considering options for the future delivery of these products within the forthcoming comprehensive spending review.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he plans to take to support research and development activity in the UK. [16157]

Mr Willetts: The coalition agreement makes it clear that we are committed to working with universities, research councils and business to enhance the effectiveness of the innovation system to support successful UK innovation. We are considering the recommendations from Sir James Dyson's Report 'Ingenious Britain' including refocusing the R&D Tax Credit on high tech, small firms and start ups and will consult with business in the autumn.

The Research Councils, Universities and the Technology Strategy Board support research and development activity across all the important sectors of the UK and with those that offer the greatest scope for boosting UK growth and productivity.

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the monetary value of Government funding allocated to scientific research projects undertaken at each institution in each Research Assessment Exercise category in each region in 2009-10. [16410]

Mr Willetts: Quality-related research funding from the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) is awarded formulaically to English institutions on the basis of the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE). This funding also provides incentives for working with businesses and charities, and for supervising young researchers. Full details of HEFCE's research grant funding to individual English institutions for 2009-10 and 2010-11 can be found at:

http://www.hefce.ac.uk/research/funding/

The Higher Education Statistics Authority (HESA) publishes data annually on the research income received by individual higher education institutions from the Funding Councils, Research Councils and from a range of other public and private sources. The latest available data are for 2008-09:

http://www.hesa.ac.uk/

Road Works: Compensation

Mark Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) if his Department will take steps to *(a)* simplify and *(b)* standardise the current system to compensate businesses for the impact of local utilities work; [15650]

(2) if his Department will consider the merits of altering the current compensation payment available to businesses payable as a result of the impact of local utilities work, so that utilities companies are required to take into account seasonal business trends as well as general business trends. [15651]

Norman Baker: I have been asked to reply with reference to the impact of utility companies' works carried out in the public highway.

The Department for Transport has received no recent representations proposing changes to existing compensation arrangements, and has no current plans to review or reform them. We are however reviewing the operation of street works with a view to lessening their duration, consistent with safety, and hence their impact on road works.

Royal Mail

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what environmental impact assessments have been undertaken for the proposed Royal Mail sorting office reorganisation, with particular reference to its likely effects on *(a)* vehicle mileage travelled by employees during working hours, *(b)* mileage travelled by employees on their journeys to and from work and *(c)* the outsourcing of downstream contracts. [15791]

Mr Davey: The Royal Mail always considers the environmental impacts of any operational changes it plans to make before reaching a final decision and takes responsibility for reducing its impact on the environment and preparing for environmental changes in the future. This includes working with its people, customers and suppliers in doing the same.

The issue the hon. Member has raised is an operational matter for the company's senior management team. I have therefore asked the chief executive of Royal Mail, Moya Greene, to respond directly to him and a copy of the reply will be placed in the House Libraries.

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has for the future of Royal Mail's universal service obligation; and if he will make a statement. [16303]

Mr Davey: The coalition Government are committed to the universal postal service and this will be at the heart of the legislation we are bringing forward shortly. Our firm intention is to maintain the universal service at its current levels, and the same price, same service everywhere principle will remain. We will not allow a situation where the level of the universal service for Inverness is not the same as that received in Bolton or London.

Trade Unions

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what meetings Ministers in his Department and its predecessors had with representatives of trade unions in each month since May 1997; which unions Ministers met; what discussions took place on each occasion; and if he will make a statement. [15735]

Mr Davey: Meetings Ministers have had with representatives of trade unions since 12 May are as follows:

Minister	*Date*	*Meeting with*	*Purpose of meeting*
Vince Cable	7 June 2010	Communication Workers Union	Introductory meeting
Vince Cable	14 June 2010	Trades Union Congress	Introductory meeting
Vince Cable	25 August 2010	Trades Union Congress	Regular meeting
David Willetts	21 June 2010	National Union of Students	To discuss Higher Education
David Willetts	5 July 2010	Universities and Colleges Employers Association	To discuss Higher Education
David Willetts	21 July 2010	University and College Union	To discuss Higher Education
David Willetts	30 September 2010	National Union of Students	To discuss Higher Education
Mark Prisk	27 July 2010	Trades Union Congress	To discuss Regional Development Agencies
John Hayes	6 July 2010	Association of teachers and lecturers	Introductory meeting
John Hayes	15 July 2010	Universities and colleges union	Introductory meeting
Edward Davey	7 June 2010	Communication Workers Union	Introductory meeting
Edward Davey	8 June 2010	National Federation of Sub Postmasters	Introductory meeting
Edward Davey	14 June 2010	Trades Union Congress	Introductory meeting
Edward Davey	7 July 2010	Trades Union Congress	Regular meeting
Edward Davey	13 July 2010	Postbank Coalition	Introductory meeting
Edward Davey	20 July 2010	National Federation of Sub Postmasters	To discuss postal affairs
Edward Davey	20 July 2010	National Farmers Union	To discuss consumer issues
Edward Davey	3 August 2010	Communication Workers Union	To discuss postal affairs
Edward Davey	9 September 2010	Communication Workers Union	To discuss postal affairs

This information will be published on the BIS public website in accordance with Cabinet Office instruction. Details of meetings with external organisations have been published on the BIS public website since October 2009 and continue to be published quarterly. All information prior to this date could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

UK Trade and Investment: Aviation

Harriett Baldwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the cost to the public purse was of travel using private planes by UK international trade representatives in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [15796]

Mr Prisk: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills incurred no cost for 'UK International Trade Representatives' using private planes in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Age Verification

Mr Alan Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to implement the age verification proposals contained in the 2010 mandatory code for alcohol retailers. [15978]

James Brokenshire: The age verification proposals contained in the 2010 mandatory code for alcohol retailers came into force on 1 October 2010.

Alcoholic Drinks: Prices

Karl McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what consideration she has given to the merits of establishing a minimum price per alcohol unit for the retail sale of alcohol. [14909]

James Brokenshire: The Government are currently conducting a review of alcohol taxation and pricing, which is being jointly led by the Home Office and HM Treasury. The review is expected to conclude in late autumn, and we are unable to pre-empt the results of this review.

Alan Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with Ministerial colleagues on the implications of competition law for a policy to set a minimum price for a unit of alcohol. [15849]

James Brokenshire: The Government are currently conducting a review of alcohol taxation and pricing, which is being jointly led by the Home Office and HM Treasury. The review is expected to conclude in late autumn.

Antisocial Behaviour

Alan Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will bring forward proposals for a national guarantee for *(a)* swift police force responses to complaints of antisocial behaviour and *(b)* stronger enforcement of antisocial behaviour orders. [14753]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 13 September 2010]:* My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary announced a review of antisocial behaviour on 28 July. We will come forward with proposals in due course.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders

Alan Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to her speech at the Coin Street Community Centre on 28 July 2010, what the evidential basis was for her statement that young people regard an antisocial behaviour order as a badge of honour. [14045]

Mrs May: Research carried out by the Youth Justice Board into antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) in 2006 found that:

> "ASBOs functioned as a 'badge of honour', rather than addressing the causes of the behaviour".

Alan Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with police officers and professional bodies on the impact that antisocial behaviour orders have had on anti-social behaviour since their introduction. [14403]

Mrs May *[holding answer 9 September 2010]:* Home Office officials are in constant dialogue with police and other professional bodies about a wide range of issues related to antisocial behaviour, including the effectiveness of tools and powers such as the antisocial behaviour order.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders: Cannock Chase

Mr Burley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders were *(a)* issued and *(b)* breached in Cannock Chase constituency in each of the last three years. [15125]

Nick Herbert: The latest available data on the number of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) issued and breached covers the period 1 April 1999 to 31 December 2008. Data collected centrally by the Ministry of Justice on the number of ASBOs issued and breached are not available below Criminal Justice System (CJS) area level.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders: Kent

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders have been *(a)* granted and *(b)* breached in Kent and Medway in each of the last five years. [15115]

Nick Herbert: The number of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) issued in the Kent Criminal Justice System (CJS) area and the number proved in court to have been breached in the Kent CJS area, in each year between 2004 and 2008 (latest currently available), are shown in the table.

Figures for Medway are unavailable as data collected centrally by the Ministry of Justice on ASBOs are not available below CJS area level.

The number of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) issued all courts[1] and the number proved in court to have been breached[2] in the Kent Criminal Justice System (CJS) area, 1 January 2004 to 31 December 2008

CJS area	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Kent					
Issued	54	44	29	26	13
Breached	5	6	8	11	16

[1] Includes ASBOs issued on application by magistrates courts acting in their civil capacity and county courts, which became available on 1 April 1999 and ASBOs made following conviction for a relevant criminal offence at the Crown court and at magistrates courts (acting in their criminal capacity), which became available on 2 December 2002. Prior to the creation of the Ministry of Justice on 9 May 2007, numbers of ASBOs issued were reported to Home Office by the Court Service.

[2] Breach data from the magistrates court administrative systems in Kent are known to have been under-reported. ASBOs may be breached more than once and in more than one year. In this table ASBOs are counted once only within the period when they were first breached. Many of these breaches will be as a result of an ASBO that was issued in an earlier year. ASBOs may be issued in one area and breached in another. For these reasons breach rates cannot be computed from the figures presented in this table. Breaches are counted in this table by area of issue.

Note:

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services within the Ministry of Justice.

Asylum

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people from which countries have claimed asylum in the United Kingdom in the last five years. [15981]

Damian Green: The accompanying table shows the number of asylum applications received in the United Kingdom by principal applicants, by country of nationality in the last five years. The figures for 2009 are provisional.

Information on asylum is published annually and quarterly. Annual figures on principal asylum applications, by nationality, for the years 2000-09 are available in Table 2a of the supplementary tables that accompany the Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom, 2009 bulletin. Latest quarterly figures on principal applications are also available in Table 2a for Quarter two 2010 that accompany the Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, April to June 2010.

Both bulletins are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate web site at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Applications[1] received for asylum in the United Kingdom, excluding dependants, by country of nationality, 2000-09

	Number of principal applicants				
Country of nationality	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009[2]*
Albania	175	155	165	160	210
Macedonia	5	*	25	*	5
Moldova	115	45	30	20	15
Russia	130	115	80	50	65
Serbia and Montenegro[4]	155	70	n/a	n/a	n/a
Turkey	755	425	210	195	185
Ukraine	55	50	40	30	50
EU Accession States[3]	130	95	25	5	15
Other Former USSR	265	220	155	180	145
Other Europe[4]	30	35	95	95	45
Total Europe	1,810	1,210	825	740	735
Colombia	70	60	30	25	20
Ecuador	10	15	10	15	5
Jamaica	325	215	240	240	200
Other Americas	100	95	115	130	140
Total Americas	505	385	390	405	365
Algeria	255	225	260	345	235
Angola	145	95	95	80	45
Burundi	90	35	25	15	20
Cameroon	290	260	160	115	90
Congo	65	45	25	25	35
Dem. Rep. of Congo	1,080	570	370	335	205
Eritrea	1,760	2,585	1,810	2,255	1,350
Ethiopia	385	200	90	130	105
Gambia	90	110	100	125	210
Ghana	230	130	120	140	140
Ivory Coast	210	170	100	70	50
Kenya	100	95	115	150	100
Liberia	175	50	40	20	15
Libya	125	90	45	45	70
Nigeria	1,025	790	780	820	680
Rwanda	40	20	25	20	25
Sierra Leone	135	125	85	55	80
Somalia	1,760	1,845	1,615	1,345	930
Sudan	885	670	330	265	215
Tanzania	20	15	20	25	35
Uganda	205	165	130	130	155
Zimbabwe	1,075	1,650	1,800	3,165	5,600
Other Africa	735	555	510	600	765
Total Africa	10,885	10,500	8,630	10,270	11,160
Iran	3,150	2,375	2,210	2,270	1,835
Iraq	1,415	945	1,825	1,850	845
Syria	330	160	155	140	
Other Middle East	595	660	755	620	465
Total Middle East	5,490	4,140	4,940	4,895	3,285
Afghanistan	1,580	2,400	2,500	3,505	3,330
Bangladesh	425	440	540	455	440
China (inc. Taiwan)	1,730	1,945	2,100	1,400	1,185
India	940	680	510	715	615
Pakistan	1,145	965	1,030	1,230	1,300
Sri Lanka	395	525	990	1,475	1,115
Vietnam	380	90	165	230	465
Other Asia and Oceania	320	270	740	535	380
Total Asia and Oceania	6,915	7,315	8,570	9,550	8,839
Other and not known	105	55	75	75	110
Grand Total	25,710	23,610	23,430	25,930	24,485

n/a = Not applicable

[1] Figures rounded to the nearest 5 (— = 0, *= 1 or 2) and may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding.

[2] Provisional figures

[3] Serbia (inc. Kosovo) and Montenegro counted under "Other Europe" from 2007.

[4] EU Accession States: Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia. Figures in 2000 exclude Malta but include Cyprus (Northern part of).

Asylum: Deportation

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 6 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 35W, on asylum: deportation, how much the UK Border Agency has spent on cancellation fees in respect of *(a)* scheduled and *(b)* chartered flights in the last 12 month[illegible] [15478]

Damian Green: The amount spent on cancellation fees for removals using scheduled flights from the United Kingdom (UK) in the last 12 months (commencing from 1 September 2009 until 31 August 2010) is not readily available. Since May our service providers have been contractually obliged to produce management information on cancellation costs. As such we are able to provide costs from May 10 to August 10 (see table). However to calculate the amount spent on cancellation fees for removals from the United Kingdom using scheduled flights prior to May 10 would require detailed analysis of management information captured and this could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Departures in month	*Cancellation costs (£)*
2010	
May	18,243.10
June	21,980.00
July	40,319.00
August	18,204.00
Total costs	98,746.10

Note: All figures given are internal management information and subject to change. They have not yet been fully accounted or reconciled.

UKBA also spent £291,826.00 on cancellation fees as part of our contractual obligations for cancelled charter flights.

Asylum: Evictions

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many failed asylum seekers have been evicted from their homes in Leeds North West constituency before being deported from the UK in the last 12 months. [16066]

Damian Green: No failed asylum seekers have been evicted from their homes in Leeds North West before being deported from the UK in the last 12 months.

Community Safety Partnerships

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has for future funding of community safety partnerships. [13827]

Nick Herbert: Future funding for community safety work will be decided as part of the Government's spending review, which will be published on 20 October 2010. We cannot speculate on the outcome of that review before it is finalised, except to be clear that the Government's priority is to cut the deficit and get the economy moving again.

In the consultation document 'Policing in the 21st Century: Reconnecting Police and the People', the Government announced that they were considering giving police and crime commissioners a role in commissioning community safety work. This will also be subject to the outcome of the spending review, as well as the consultation.

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has for the future of community safety partnerships (CSPs); and what recent assessment she has made of the value for money of CSPs. [13828]

Nick Herbert: Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) and other local partnerships have played a strong role in preventing crime and we want them to continue to do so. In order to free local partners from central bureaucracy we are considering whether we can repeal some of the more prescriptive elements of CSP regulations. In addition, the new Police and Crime Commissioners will be enabled to play a considerable role in relation to community safety, and the Government are currently consulting publicly on how Commissioners can best work with criminal justice and community safety partners.

We have recently considered the available international evidence of the effectiveness of partnership working in a crime and disorder context and concluded that it supports the general principle that collaborative working between partners is more effective in reducing and preventing crime than agencies working alone; there is also some evidence that working in partnership has the potential to create efficiency savings by reducing duplication and fragmentation of services.

Counter-terrorism

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the statement of 13 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 797-98, on counter-terrorism and security powers, when she expects to announce the membership of the team conducting her Department's review of counter-terrorism and security powers. [12127]

Nick Herbert: As set out in the Terms of Reference for the review, which were placed in both House Libraries on 23 July 2010, the review is being conducted by the Office of Security and Counter-Terrorism in the Home Office with the full involvement of the police, the security and intelligence agencies, the Crown Prosecution Service and other Government Departments including those in Scotland and Northern Ireland. Independent oversight of the review will be provided by Lord Macdonald of River Glaven who will ensure that the review is properly conducted, that all the relevant options have been considered and that the recommendations of the review are fair and balanced.

Counter-terrorism: Powers

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she plans to take to ensure the proportionate use by public authorities of powers available to them under anti-terrorism legislation. [13239]

Nick Herbert: The Government are committed to ensuring that there are safeguards within the legislation to prevent the misuse of counter-terrorism and security legislation.

My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary announced a review of counter terrorism and security powers and measures on 13 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 797-809. The purpose of the review is to look at the balance between security and civil liberties in relation to the most sensitive and controversial powers and, consistent with protecting the public and where possible, to reduce the powers assumed by the state.

Crime

Alan Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what account the review of the British Crime Survey will take of recent trends in official crime statistics. [14755]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 13 September 2010]:* The recent trends in official crime statistics will not form part of the review. It will consider the coverage, publication and governance of all Home Office crime statistics including the British Crime Survey.

Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the requirements under the Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009 for the designated scrutiny committees to meet with responsible authorities in connection with the discharge of their crime and disorder functions at least once a year will apply to GP consortia. [15996]

Nick Herbert: Primary care trusts (PCTs) are currently one of the six responsible authorities which comprise Community Safety Partnerships; collectively the partners have a statutory duty to develop and implement strategies to reduce crime and disorder, and to reduce reoffending. The work of Community Safety Partnerships is subject to formal scrutiny under provisions in the Police and Justice Act 2006 (supplemented by the Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009). The NHS White paper 'Equity and excellence: Liberating the NHS', which was published in July 2010, announced the abolition of PCTs and the creation of GP consortia and other new arrangements. The legislation governing CSPs will be updated in accordance with any changes that take place.

Crime and Security Act 2010

Alan Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to make commencement orders in relation to the Crime and Security Act 2010. [14135]

Mrs May: The Home Office is reviewing legislation that has yet to be commenced, including the Crime and Security Act 2010. A decision will be made on commencement of the Act in due course.

Crime Prevention

Alan Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what discussions she has had with *(a)* police forces and *(b)* professional bodies on her plans to encourage active citizens to become community crime fighters; [14055]

(2) pursuant to chapter 5 of her Department's consultation on policing in the 21st century, what plans she has to encourage active citizens to become community crime fighters; and what estimate she has made of the cost of implementing such proposals, with particular reference to the cost of *(a)* mobilising activists, *(b)* training, *(c)* information, *(d)* publicity and *(e)* support. [14056]

Mrs May: The Government want to support the public to take a more active role in keeping neighbourhoods safe by working in partnership with the police. We have published a consultation document, "Policing in the 21st Century", setting out proposed national changes to policing. These include encouraging citizens to play their part through joint patrols with the police, looking out for their neighbours and passing on safety tips as part of Neighbourhood Watch groups or as community crime fighters. Officials have had discussions with police partners, community crime fighters and others to develop these ideas.

Following the end of the consultation period on 20 September we will consider next steps, including any costs of implementation.

Crime: Offensive Weapons

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes involving *(a)* knives and *(b)* firearms were recorded in each postcode area in each London local authority in 2009-10. [16197]

James Brokenshire: Data on knife and firearms offences are collected by the Home Office at police force area level. They cannot be broken down to local authority or postcode area level.

In 2009-10, 12,570 offences involving the use of a knife or sharp instrument were recorded by London police forces—12,560 by the Metropolitan police and 10 by City of London police.

2009-10 data for police recorded firearms offences will be published in January 2011.

Criminal Records

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate she has made of the average time taken for an organisation to obtain the results of Criminal Record Bureau checks; what steps she plans to take to reduce the time taken to undertake such checks; and if she will make a statement. [15621]

Lynne Featherstone *[holding answer 16 September 2010]:* The Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) was established under Part V of the Police Act 1997 and was launched in 2002. The service provided by the CRB enables organisations across England and Wales in the public, private and voluntary sectors to make safer recruitment decisions by identifying candidates who may be unsuitable for certain work, especially roles that involve working with children and vulnerable adults.

The performance of the CRB is measured against a number of Published Service Standards (PSS) which include to issue 95% of Standard CRB checks within 10 days and 90% of Enhanced CRB checks within 28 days.

In the last period for which figures are available, August 2010, the number of days the CRB took on average to complete an Enhanced check is 27.7. This figure includes the data for Enhanced applications handled by the CRB where the data provided on the application form are complete and there is no requirement to write to the registered body for clarification of information.

The average length of time taken to process a Standard certificate is unavailable as the data are not collated by the bureau. Standard applications represent only 4% of all applications received and the CRB are currently exceeding their PSS in relation to these checks, issuing 99.8% in 10 days.

At present the CRB is issuing 88.2% of Enhanced certificates within the 28-day PSS. There can, however, be a number of factors that can affect the timely completion of CRB checks, including but not restricted to:

the length of time it can take for an employer to deal with and submit the initial application;

the accurate completion of the application form;

the clarity of the information provided, and

the existence of conviction or non-conviction information and the operational effectiveness of the disclosure units of the police forces involved in the CRB checking process.

The CRB works very closely with the police in demand planning and addressing the problems associated with delays. It does this by:

working with police forces on issues such as recruitment needs and lead-in times, retention of staff, IT systems and capacity, accommodation constraints and local force vacancies;

where police forces get into difficulty the CRB support them in developing recovery plans to reduce the build up of work, and

proactively manage and report performance on a weekly basis across all police forces

Over the past 12 months the CRB has been working with forces to reduce the backlog of older cases.

Dentention Centres: Children

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she plans to take to end the detention of children of asylum seekers; and if she will make a statement. [15389]

Damian Green: The Government are committed to ending the detention of children for immigration purposes. I am having ongoing discussions with the UK Border Agency about how this can be achieved in a way which promotes the welfare of children while ensuring the return of families who have no right to be in the UK. Significant progress has been made and we are now piloting new approaches that involve options based on keeping families with children in the community. We are also continuing to work on alternative ways of securing the removal of those families who refuse to comply with our new approach.

Departmental Assets

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which former *(a)* buildings and *(b)* land owned by (i) her Department and (ii) (A) non-departmental public bodies and (B) agencies for which her Department is responsible have been sold since May 2005; what the sale price of each was at the time of sale; and to which body the funds from the sale accrued in each case. [12328]

Nick Herbert: Asset receipts shown in the accounts since May 2005 were:

	Receipt (£)
Home Office	
Horseferry House, London SW1	32,000,000
House, Sedgefield, County Durham	40,000
NPIA	
Former Police Training Centre, Warrington, Cheshire	5,000,000
Former Police Training Centre, Ashford, Kent	4,600,000

The Home Secretary's official residence at 62 South Eaton Place London SW1 was sold at close to the asking price of £4.0 million. The exact price is subject to a confidentiality agreement requested by the purchaser. In addition, two sites were transferred to the Ministry of Justice for potential prison use. Current values of the sites sold are not known. Receipts were retained by my Department.

Departmental Billing

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average cost to her Department was of processing the payment of an invoice in the latest period for which figures are available; and what proportion of invoices settled in that period her Department paid *(a)* electronically and *(b)* by cheque. [16167]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office processes its invoices through the Ministry of Justice Shared Service Centre.

The average cost for 2009-10 (the latest full year figures available) was £6.98 per invoice. This was the cost of the Shared Service Centre teams directly involved with processing the invoice and their share of the overheads.

The proportion of invoices paid electronically during 2009-10 was 98.48% and the proportion paid by cheque during 2009-10 was 1.52%. Those are the last full financial year data available.

Departmental Consultants

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* average and *(b)* highest daily rate paid to consultants by her Department was in each of the last five years. [13059]

Nick Herbert: The Home Department's commercial objectives require consultancy services to be commissioned in terms of defined output, not in terms of individuals assigned by the firms in question.

Using Buying Solution frameworks, the Department competes each requirement. The competition and any negotiation ensure that value for money is achieved. It does not therefore agree daily rates. The Department has maintained significant focus in this area in the financial years 2009-10 and 2010-11, which has resulted in spend in this category reducing by 33% in Q1 this financial year 2010-11, compared to the same period in the last financial year.

Departmental Contracts

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the monetary value is of contracts her Department has awarded to each *(a)* management consultancy and *(b)* IT company since 7 May 2010. [16181]

James Brokenshire: The monetary value of each contract awarded by the Home Office to each *(a)* management consultancy and each *(b)* IT company since 7 May 2010 is as follows:

	Supplier	*Contract value (£)*
(a) Management consultancy	NBPA	500
(a) Management consultancy	Nicolas Parker Ltd.	17,500
(b) IT company	Byg Systems	35,608
(b) IT company	Experiments	20,000

Departmental Fines

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many transport-related fines her Department has settled on behalf of its staff in each year since 2005; and what the cost to the public purse was in each such year. [13297]

Nick Herbert: The information requested is not available as Home Office systems for recording expenses do not specifically record transport-related fines.

However, Home Office travel policy specifically mentions that financial penalties for motoring offences (including parking) are not reimbursable.

Departmental Furniture

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many chairs her Department has purchased in each year since 1997; how much it spent in each such year; and what the five most expensive chairs purchased in each such year were. [12796]

Nick Herbert: From available records, the following table lists the requested information for the Department's headquarters at 2 Marsham street. Earlier information is not available.

	2005-06		*2006-07*		*2007-08*		*2008-09*		*2009-10*	
	Number	*£*	*Number*	*£*	*Number*	*£*	*Number*	*£*	*Number*	*£*
Number and costs of chairs	412	112,249	49	20,293	8	4,019	4	2,468	68	27,017
Five most expensive chairs (number purchased)	2	780	1	595	1	765	1	685	1	690
	1	774	4	431	1	694	1	684	2	675
	2	286			1	659	1	678	1	655
					1	427	1	423	1	652
					1	416				

The additional chairs were generally purchased to enable additional staff to relocate to 2 Marsham street resulting in substantial cost savings from the disposal of other offices.

The majority of the most expensive chairs were acquired following occupational health assessments recommending the provision of orthopaedic chairs to meet users' specific needs. This enables the Department to meet its duty of care to its staff and to comply with the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent under each budgetary heading by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the UK Border Agency on hospitality in 2005-06. [13352]

Nick Herbert: Home Office expenditure on official hospitality and entertainment conforms to departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, which complies with the principles of Managing Public Money and HM Treasury's Regularity and Propriety handbook.

Hospitality is defined as the provision of food, drink and entertainment of non-civil servants where it is beneficial to the interests of the Department.

The UK Border Agency came into existence as an executive agency of the Home Office on 1 April, 2009 and there are no recorded costs for the requested period.

However, the Home Office spent £323,983 in 2005-06, of which £67,788 was incurred by the Immigration and Nationality Directorate, that part of the Department whose roles and responsibilities were assumed by UK Border Agency.

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on hospitality for events hosted by each Minister in her Department in July 2010. [14937]

James Brokenshire: The Home Office did not incur any relevant expenditure during July 2010.

Departmental Press

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on newspapers, periodicals and trade profession magazines in each year since 1997. [16227][1]

Nick Herbert: The answer to this question is provided in the following table. It covers the period 1999-2009. Figures before 1999 are not available.

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[1] *[Official Report, 28 October 2010, Vol. 517, c. 7MC.]*

This year we have been able to access more information that has enabled us to provide more details than we did in answering a similar question answered on 31 March 2010, *Official Report*, columns 1075-76W.

The figures from 2006 onwards are taken from a corporate framework agreement which gives improved value for money when compared to previous arrangements.

This framework agreement includes figures for the UK Border Agency and it is not possible to separate out their expenditure from this figure. The other Executive agencies do not yet use this framework and so are not included.

The figures provided reflect the functions with the Home Office during the listed years. Machinery of government changes and internal departmental restructuring has led to changes in the size and functions of the Department. As a consequence direct comparison year on year is very difficult.

Expenditure on newspapers and journals for period 1999-2010

	£
1999	13,086
2000	14,676
2001	24,981
2002	23,399
2003	26,734
2004	41,056
2005	42,277
2006	116,237
2007	102,277
2008	80,190
2009	63,479
2010	37,745

Departmental Rents

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was paid by her Department in rent for properties in *(a)* total and *(b)* each (i) region and (ii) nation of the UK in each of the last five years. [12329]

Nick Herbert: The Department's centrally controlled rent payments (rounded) for the last five years excluding agencies and PFI contracts, and split across London, Scotland and regions where properties are rented, were as follows:

	£ million		*£000*						
	Total	*London*	*North West*	*South West*	*East Midlands*	*East of England*	*West Midlands*	*Scotland*
2005-06	6.4	6.0	0	42	279	0	18	51
2006-07	6.1	5.8	0	42	279	0	18	51
2007-08	6.3	5.130	647	42	327	69	18	51
2008-09	6.4	5.130	647	42	410	69	18	51
2009-10	6.5	5.3	647	42	410	69	18	51

London rents are expected to fall substantially in the next three years.

Departmental Travel

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate her Department has made of its expenditure on travel undertaken in an official capacity by each Minister in her Department in (i) May 2010 and (ii) June 2010. [8239]

Nick Herbert: The total cost of travel incurred by the Home Department for the Home Secretary and other Home Office Ministers travelling in an official capacity is as follows:

	£
Home Secretary	
May 2010	1,328
June 2010	0
Home Office Ministers	
May 2010	18,127
June 2010	54,060

Deportation: Children

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 6 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 44W, on deportation: children, which holds and techniques have been used on children by *(a)* staff in immigration detention centres and *(b)* UK Border Agency escort providers since January 2009. [15726]

Damian Green: Further to my answer of 6 September 2010, officers are required to complete a report for any occasion where a detainee is restrained which must be passed to the relevant UK Border Agency contract monitor. The report requires officers to set out the circumstances of the situation and to justify why restraint was necessary. It does not, however, require them to stipulate the exact holds and techniques used and the information sought is therefore not recorded.

Deportation: Offenders

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign national prisoners *(a)* were deported in 2009 and *(b)* have been deported in 2010 to date. [15644]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency has published statistics that show:

(a) 5,530 foreign national prisoners were deported or removed from the UK in 2009.

(b) 1,225 foreign national prisoners were deported or removed in quarter 1 for 2010 and 1,200 in quarter 2 for 2010.

These figures have been extracted from the 'Control of Immigration: UK Statistics' reports for 2009 and 2010, which can be accessed at:

http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Detention Centres: Children

Alan Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to page 21 of the coalition agreement, what steps she plans to take to end the detention of children for immigration purposes. [15397]

Damian Green *[holding answer 14 September 2010]*: The Government are committed to ending the detention of children for immigration purposes. Our aim is to achieve this in a way which promotes the welfare of children while ensuring the return of families who have no right to be in the UK. Significant progress has been made and we are now piloting new approaches. We are also continuing to work on alternative ways of securing the removal of those families who refuse to comply with our new approach.

Detention Centres: Parents

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she plans to take to ensure that parents in immigration detention are not separated from their children. [15722]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency has a policy of not separating children from both parents, or from one in the case of a single-parent family, for immigration purposes other than in exceptional cases.

For example, there may be circumstances where a prisoner, who is also a parent, is released from prison and a decision is made to maintain their detention under immigration powers in order to effect their deportation. Such assessments are made on a case by case basis taking into account public and child protection concerns.

However, family separations may occur for other reasons, such as for child protection purposes (which would be a matter for local authority children's services) or where the parent has chosen to split the family by deliberately hiding the whereabouts of their children. Where children are missing the UK Border Agency will work with other statutory agencies, such as the police and local authorities, to try to locate the children and reunite them with their parent.

DNA: Databases

Alan Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the likely effects on police time and resources of the move to the Scottish model of DNA retention as referred to in the coalition agreement. [14134]

Mrs May: Police time and resources will be taken into consideration as part of the policy development process and a full impact assessment will be published alongside the Freedom Bill when it is introduced.

Domestic Violence

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to assist victims of domestic violence. [9799]

Lynne Featherstone: We are currently working across Government to discuss the best approach to tackle violence against women and girls, including domestic violence and will be publishing a Strategy in the spring.

We have already committed to the following:

An extension to a Home Office pilot project for victims of domestic violence with no recourse to public funds until the end of March 2011 and a commitment to find a long-term funding solution to the issue.

£3.5 million in 2010-11 to contribute to the funding of Independent Domestic Violence Advisers, Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences and some wider work to tackle violence against women.

Funding contributions to a network of helplines in 2010-11.

Alan Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what assessment she has made of the effect on levels of domestic violence of halting the implementation of domestic violence protection orders; [14046]

(2) what discussions she has had with *(a)* police forces, *(b)* the Association of Chief Police Officers, *(c)* the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, *(d)* Women's Aid and *(e)* other professional bodies on the effect of halting the implementation of domestic violence protection orders; [14047]

(3) what powers police forces have to protect women who report domestic violence in cases where there is insufficient evidence to bring criminal charges; [14048]

(4) what the estimated saving to the public purse is of her decision to halt the implementation of domestic violence protection orders. [14404]

Lynne Featherstone *[holding answer 9 September 2010]*: We are committed to tackling violence against women and girls. We have deferred, not halted, the pilot scheme of the domestic violence protection order (DVPO) so we could understand their potential impact better and be sure that they would work before committing public funds.

We have had representations from a range of organisations and will keep the Association of Chief Police Officers and other partners involved in discussions about this. In the meantime the police and courts have a wide range of powers available to them to deal with domestic violence through the criminal justice process including the setting of bail conditions. Where there is insufficient evidence to bring civil charges a range of civil powers are available to the courts to protect victims, including non-molestation and occupation orders.

The costs of implementing DVPOs across England and Wales would be impacted by a range of factors, including take-up, and it is not possible to accurately estimate these until a pilot has taken place and been evaluated. The estimated cost for piloting the scheme within two police force areas was £700,000 based on an assumption of 250-300 possible applications for DVPOs across a six to 12-month period over the two areas.

In tough economic times, the Government have to consider options for delivering improved protection and value for money across all aspects of their work as part of the spending review. We will give further consideration to work in this area once the outcome of the spending review in known.

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) whether she has made a recent estimate of the proportion of single parents who have experienced domestic violence in the last 12 months; [14777]

(2) if she will estimate the proportion of domestic violence incidents attended by police in the latest year for which figures are available in respect of which the offender was aged *(a)* under 16, *(b)* between 16 and 18, *(c)* between 18 and 30 and *(d)* 30 years or older; [14778]

(3) if she will estimate the proportion of domestic violence incidents attended by police for the most recent year for which figures are available in respect of which the offender was found to be under the influence of *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* drugs. [14779]

Lynne Featherstone: Although the Home Office does not hold information in the exact form specified, information on domestic violence and domestic abuse is collected by the British Crime Survey (BCS) through both face-to-face interviews and through a self-completion module given to respondents.

The most recent figures for each question with the closest available data are as follows:

According to the 2007-08 BCS self-completion module, 15.7% of men and 17.7% of women living alone with one or more children had been victims of domestic abuse in the last 12 months.

According to the 2009-10 BCS, in incidents of domestic violence:

3% of incidents included an offender aged under 16;

28% of incidents included an offender aged 16 to 24;

40% of incidents included an offender aged 25 to 39;

30% of incidents included an offender aged 40 or older.

According to the 2008-09 BCS self-completion module, 27% of victims of partner abuse in the past 12 months perceived that the offender was under the influence of alcohol at the time of the incident (or the most recent incident if they were victim of more than one) and 10% perceived that the offender was under the influence of drugs.

E-Borders Programme.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department plans to include an automated authority to carry function in the e-Borders programme. [16009]

Damian Green: It remains an option to include an automated authority to carry function in the e-Borders programme; however, there are no current plans to deploy this functionality.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to reduce the overall cost of the e-Borders programme. [16010]

Damian Green: Since the e-Borders contract was terminated on 22 July 2010 due to significant and persistent breaches of contract by Raytheon Systems Limited, it has been necessary to develop a strategy to procure services to replace those under the original e-Borders contract. This will include rigorous assessment of value for money.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what time scale she has set for securing an alternative supplier to deliver the e-Borders programme following the termination of the contract with Raytheon. [16011]

Damian Green: No time scale has been set for securing an alternative supplier to deliver the e-Borders programme; we are working with the existing supplier, Raytheon Systems Ltd, and other companies to conclude arrangements in this regard and this will enable planning to be finalised and determine the applicable timetable.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what time scale she has set for the completion of the e-Borders programme. [16012]

Damian Green: No time scale has been set for completion of the e-Borders programme as this will be determined by approval of the business case through applicable governance mechanisms.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what time scale she has set for the inclusion of passenger name record checks in the e-Borders programme. [16013]

Damian Green: Passenger name record checks are presently being considered for inclusion in the programme as part of the business case process; no time scale has been set for the inclusion of these checks in the e-Borders programme as this is dependent on approval of the business case.

Firearms

Mr Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what statistics her Department collates about the use in crime of legally-held firearms. [16130]

James Brokenshire: The Home Office collects data on the number of offences in which firearms were reported to have been used. Since April 2007, homicides that were committed using a licensed firearm are reported to the Home Office. For all other offence types, it is not possible to determine whether the weapons involved were held on certificate.

From 1986 to 1996-97, firearm offences data collected centrally did not include reference to whether weapons were held legally or illegally. Attempts were made between 1997-98 and 2003-04 to collect such data, but there were concerns over their quality and they were not in a form suitable for publication. There is a difficulty for the police being able to identify whether a firearm used in an offence was legally or illegally held, particularly if that firearm was not retrieved. As a result, the data for this period were not published. Because of these concerns, and following consultation with police force representatives, the data ceased to be collected centrally from 1 April 2004.

Mr Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many firearms of each category were reported stolen during 2009-10. [16131]

James Brokenshire: The Home Office collects data on firearms that are misappropriated. Misappropriated firearms are defined as those stolen, obtained by fraud or forgery, or handled dishonestly. Final figures for 2009-10 will be published in January 2011.

Firearms: Licensing

Alan Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with *(a)* the Association of Chief Police Officers and *(b)* the British Medical Association on mental health issues and firearms licensing; and if she will make a statement. [14112]

Mrs May: Ministers have met representatives of the Association of Chief Police Officers to discuss firearms licensing issues, and are aware of their discussions with the medical associations about the possibility of placing a marker on NHS patient records so that a GP will know whether a patient has access to firearms and can notify the police of any concerns about a certificate holder's suitability. The Government are following progress closely and will feed this into subsequent work on gun controls.

Former Ministers: Security

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on protection and security for *(a)* Tony Blair, *(b)* Sir John Major and *(c)* Baroness Thatcher in 2009. [11731]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 27 July 2010]:* The Dedicated Security Post (DSP) Grant provided by the Home Office is a contribution to fund specialist police roles which relate exclusively, to the protection of members of the royal family and their residences; and the protection of public figures, and their official and private residences. The DSP grant for 2009-10 was £132 million.

We do not provide detailed information regarding the allocation of the DSP grant to individual police forces or the amount of contribution for each individual or otherwise provide a further breakdown. Disclosure of such information could compromise the integrity of these arrangements and affect the security of the individuals concerned.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the cost of security provision for each former Cabinet Minister receiving protection since 2000. [14145]

Nick Herbert: We are unable to provide detailed information on the cost of security to protected individuals, including former Cabinet Ministers. To do so would compromise the integrity of the security arrangements of the individuals concerned.

We can provide details of the aggregate Home Office contribution to the Dedicated Security Post (DSP) Grant, which provides a contribution towards the cost of police officers and staff who carry out protection duties. These duties relate to the protection of members of the Royal Family and their residences, and the protection of public figures, and their official and private residences. In 2009-10, £132 million was spent under the DSP grant. For 2010-11, the DSP grant is £128 million.

Before 2009-10, the DSP funding stream also included a contribution to Special Branch policing at ports, counter-terrorism security advisers and policing of critical national infrastructure sites which are now funded by the Counter-Terrorism Specific Grant. An audited, disaggregated breakdown for the DSP spends for prior periods is not available.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on protection and security for *(a)* Tony Blair, *(b)* Sir John Major and *(c)* Baroness Thatcher in each year since 2007. [15775]

Nick Herbert: We are unable to provide detailed information on the cost of security to protected individuals, including former Prime Ministers. To do so would compromise the integrity of the security arrangements of the individuals concerned.

We can provide details of the aggregate Home Office contribution for the dedicated security post (DSP) grant which provides a contribution towards the cost of police officers and staff who carry out protection duties. These duties relate to the protection of members of the royal family and their residences; and the protection of public figures, and their official and private residences. In 2009-10, £132 million was spent under the DSP grant. For 2010-11, the DSP grant is £128 million.

Before 2009-10, the DSP grant also included a contribution to special branch policing at ports, counter-terrorism security advisers and policing of critical national infrastructure sites which are now funded by the counter-terrorism specific grant. An audited, disaggregated breakdown for the DSP spends is not available.

Google: Data Protection

Mark Reckless: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations she has received on interception of wireless communications data by Google Street View; which agency has responsibility for *(a)* investigating and *(b)* prosecuting breaches of the law in respect of unauthorised interception of wireless communications; and if she will make a statement. [14385]

Nick Herbert: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has received no recent representations about interception of wireless communications data by Google Street View. The police are responsible for investigating cases of unlawful interception of communications and the Crown Prosecution Service for prosecuting those cases.

HM Inspectorate of Constabulary

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the outcome was of her meeting with HM Inspectorate of Constabulary on 6 September 2010. [15808]

Nick Herbert: The Ministry of Justice and HM Inspectorate of Constabulary have advised that they are unaware of any meeting between the Secretary of State for Justice and Sir Denis O'Connor, HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary on 6 September 2010.

However, a meeting did occur on this date between myself and Sir Denis O'Connor. This meeting was arranged to discuss a forthcoming workshop on the current arrangements for assessing police performance with policing representatives and officials. The outcome of the meeting was that the agenda and handling for the workshop was developed. No policy decisions were reached.

Human Trafficking

Alan Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the evidential basis is for the Government's decision not to opt-in to the provisions of the European Directive on trafficking in human beings. [15693]

Damian Green *[holding answer 16 September 2010]:* The Government decided not to opt in to the directive at the outset, but to review the position once the directive has been implemented. We still have the option of applying to opt in at a later stage.

In reaching this decision, the Government considered whether the directive would make a practical difference to the way the UK fights trafficking and whether it contained operational co-operation measures from which the UK would benefit.

Alan Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she plans to take to tackle human trafficking. [16058]

Damian Green: Combating human trafficking is a key priority for the coalition Government. We are committed to tackling the organised crime groups who profit from this human misery, and to the protection of victims.

In addition to ongoing efforts by law enforcement agencies and NGO partners in combating trafficking, the Government are committed to creating a National Crime Agency, which will help combat organised crime, including trafficking, more effectively. We are also reviewing victim care arrangements, including the National Referral Mechanism which helps identify victims and refer them for support.

Human Trafficking: Prostitution

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been charged with offences of controlling sex workers for gain in London since 1 January 2010. [16075]

James Brokenshire: Information on charging is not held centrally, data on arrest or defendants proceeded against at magistrates court are normally provided in lieu.

The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences), broken down at a main offence group level only, therefore arrests data are not available at the level of detail required.

Court proceedings data for 2009 are planned for publication on 21 October 2010. Data for 2010 will not be available until 2011.

Illegal Immigrants

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many illegal immigrants to the UK who have been convicted of offences related to unlawful entry to the UK in the last three years have not been deported from the UK; and if she will make a statement. [15741]

Damian Green *[holding answer 16 September 2010]:* Between January 2007 and December 2009, 24,300 illegal entrants were detected by Border Force officers at the UK border.

Of the 24,300 illegal entrants detected, 23,436 were removed or deported. A detailed annual breakdown is provided in the following table:

	Illegal entrants detected	*Illegal entrants removed/deported*	*Percentage removed/deported*
2007	5,981	5,778	97
2008	8,983	8,643	96
2009	9,336	9,015	97
Total	24,300	23,436	97

Of those illegal entrants detected by UK Border Agency officers at the UK border who are not removed or deported, a number will have been granted asylum or another form of discretionary leave.

The information used to answer this question has been taken from a live database and is therefore subject to change. Removals and voluntary departures recorded on the system are as at the dates on which the data extracts are taken. Figures may change due to data cleansing and data matching exercises that may take place after extracts are taken.

Illegal Immigrants: Deportation

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many illegal immigrants from each country of origin have been served with deportation orders in each year since 1997; how many have appealed *(a)* successfully and *(b)* unsuccessfully against an order in each such year; and how many unsuccessful appellants (i) succeeded and (ii) did not succeed at tribunal hearings in each such year. [15779]

Damian Green *[holding answer 16 September 2010]:* While the UK Border Agency captures information relating to illegal immigrants, removals and appeals, our standard reports do not capture all three of the elements listed within the question. To do so would require a new report to be built linking two databases, which would incur a disproportionate cost.

Illegal Immigrants: Public Expenditure

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average cost to the public purse was of one day's detention of an illegal immigrant in the latest period for which figures are available; how many such immigrants had been detained for *(a)* up to three months, *(b)* up to six months, *(c)* up to 12 months and *(d)* 12 months and over on the latest date for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [15778]

Damian Green *[holding answer 16 September 2010]:* We would prefer that people with no basis of stay left the UK voluntarily.

Detention is, however, an essential part of our ability to enforce an effective immigration control. It is generally used where we need to establish a person's nationality or identity, to consider applications for asylum from those claims which can be concluded quickly, to remove those with no basis of stay who have either failed or refused to leave the UK, or to hold those committed of serious offences pending their deportation.

The average daily cost of detaining a person in an immigration removal centre (IRC) is £110.

The UK Border Agency seeks to keep length of detention to the minimum period although where it does become prolonged, it is invariably because the detainee is failing to co-operate with the removal process, including providing incomplete or false information about their identity.

The latest published information on persons detained solely under Immigration Act powers by length of detention are available in the table 3.11 of the Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom, April-June 2010 in the Library of the House and the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Immigration

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of people with pending applications for indefinite leave to remain who have been in the UK for *(a)* up to five years, *(b)* between five and 10 years and *(c)* 15 years or more. [15980]

Damian Green: This information is not available from the UK Border Agency's Case Information Database (CID) as the information requested is not recorded in a format that can be retrieved by running Management Information (MI) reports.

Miscarriages of Justice: Freedom of Information

Mr David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 relating to cases of alleged miscarriage of justice have been refused by each police authority in each year since the Act's entry into force. [15427]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 15 September 2010]:* This information is not held centrally.

Missing Persons

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which police forces supply data to the Missing Persons Bureau for the quarterly and annual data reports on missing people. [15891]

Nick Herbert: Of the 46 English and Welsh forces (including the islands), 35 provided at least one quarterly return to the UK Missing Persons Bureau in 2009-10. 16 police forces provided a return for all four quarters. List 1 provides the individual breakdown.

Of the eight Scottish police forces, four provided at least one quarterly return to the UK Missing Persons Bureau in 2009-10. Two police forces provided a return for all four quarters. List 2 provides the individual breakdown.

The variation in supplying data reflects the staged implementation of the Code of Practice requiring data to be provided. Police forces have shown willing in working towards full compliance and the Bureau is supporting them through this transition.

List 1: English and Welsh police force quarterly returns to the Missing Persons Bureau in 2009-10

Police forces providing at least one quarterly return

Avon and Somerset Constabulary
Bedfordshire Police
Cambridgeshire Constabulary
Cheshire Constabulary
Cleveland Police
Cumbria Police
Derbyshire Constabulary
Devon and Cornwall Police
Essex Police
Greater Manchester Police
Gwent Police
Hampshire Constabulary
Hertfordshire Constabulary
Humberside Police
Kent Police
Lancashire Constabulary
Leicestershire Constabulary
Lincolnshire Police
Merseyside Police
Metropolitan Police Service
Norfolk Constabulary
Northamptonshire Police
Northumbria Police
North Wales Police
Nottinghamshire Police
South Wales Police
South Yorkshire Police
Staffordshire Police
Suffolk Constabulary
Surrey Police
Sussex Police
Thames Valley Police
Warwickshire Police
West Midlands Police
West Mercia Police

Police forces that provided a return for each quarter

Avon and Somerset Constabulary
Cambridgeshire Constabulary
Cheshire Constabulary
Hertfordshire Constabulary
Humberside Police
Lancashire Constabulary

Derbyshire Constabulary
Leicestershire Constabulary
Lincolnshire Police
Merseyside Police
Metropolitan Police Service
South Wales Police
Suffolk Constabulary
Surrey Police
Sussex Police
West Mercia Police

List 2: Scottish police force quarterly returns to the Missing Persons Bureau in 2009-10

Police forces providing at least one quarterly return

Grampian Police
Northern Constabulary
Central Scotland Police
Dumfries and Galloway Constabulary

Police forces that provided a return for each quarter

Grampian Police
Northern Constabulary.

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which police forces do not supply day-to-day data to the Missing Person's Bureau on people who have been missing for more than 72 hours. [15894]

Nick Herbert: Of the 45 English and Welsh police forces (including the islands), 40 provide the UK Missing Persons Bureau with data manually or by automatic transfer, 36 of these on a consistent basis. Of the eight Scottish forces, three provide data, one of these on a consistent basis.

The bureau does not receive data notifications from the following police forces unless specific case details are requested: City of London police, Norfolk constabulary, Northumbria police, South Yorkshire police, Guernsey police, Isle of Man constabulary, Central Scotland police, Dumfries and Galloway constabulary, Fife constabulary, Northern constabulary, Tayside police and the Police Service of Northern Ireland. Of the special police forces (as referred to in the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005), the British Transport police provide some manual notifications on an irregular basis.

None of the armed forces/military police forces provide notifications to the bureau.

The variation in supplying data reflects the staged implementation of the code of practice requiring data to be provided. Forces have shown willing in working towards full compliance and the bureau is supporting them through this transition.

Missing Persons: Unidentified Bodies

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many unidentified bodies were successfully matched against reports of missing persons in 2009-10. [16340]

Nick Herbert: A total of 67 unidentified bodies were successfully matched against reports of missing persons in 2009-10.

This figure reflects data held centrally. In accordance with the Code of Practice, police forces are required to notify unidentified people, bodies and body parts to the Bureau within 48 hours. Consequently, bodies which are identified within 48 hours may not be reported to the Bureau.

The data provided are management information, and has not been formally assessed for compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

National Police Improvement Agency: Missing Persons

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much the National Police Improvement Agency spent on work related to missing persons in 2009-10. [16341]

Nick Herbert: For the financial year 2009-10, the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) spent a total of £558,000 on work related to missing persons in 2009-10. The NPIA also made contributions totalling £600,000 to the charity Missing People.

Northumbria Constabulary: Finance

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the damping element of the police grant will be paid to Northumbria constabulary for 2010-11. [13796]

Nick Herbert: Yes. Northumbria Constabulary will receive £36.3 million damping support in 2010-11.

Police

Alan Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which police forces continue to use the policing pledge. [15692]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 16 September 2010]:* The police service needs more freedom from central control, fewer centrally driven targets and less intervention and interference from government. That is why the policing pledge has been abolished and the remaining centrally imposed target on police forces to improve public confidence has been scrapped. In line with this approach, the Home Office does not hold information on the continued use of the policing pledge.

Alan Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to her Department's statistical bulletin 14/10, on police service strength, what assessment she has made of recent trends in the strength of police forces in England and Wales; and if she will make a statement. [15851]

Nick Herbert: Police service strength for 31 March 2010 was published by the Home Office on 22 July. Decisions about the number of police officers, police community support officers and police staff in each force are a matter for the chief constable in consultation with the police authority.

Police Authorities

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 3 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 79W, on police authorities, under what budgetary headings the amount spent on the administration of Essex Police Authority was incurred; and if she will make a statement. [15710]

Nick Herbert: Essex police authority has now published its statement for accounts, and it is available on its website. This shows the authority spent £235,000 on allowances, £119,000 on its Community Safety Partnership grant, £237,000 on internal audit, £18,000 on banking charges, £576,000 on staffing and £149,000 on other costs.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 3 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 79W, on police authorities, what progress has been made on the implementation of proposals to introduce directly-elected individuals to replace police authorities; and if she will make a statement. [15711]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office is engaging constructively with key policing stakeholders on the development of our proposals to introduce Police and Crime Commissioners in England and Wales.

These proposals were set out in the 'Policing in the 21st Century' consultation document, published on 26 July 2010. Formal consultation ended on 20 September. Responses have been submitted by a range of policing partners and these will now be considered before the publication of the Government response in the autumn.

Police: Accountability

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether police precepts will be set by elected police commissioners. [13737]

Nick Herbert: Yes.

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether police commissioners will be elected to serve fixed-term appointments; and when she plans Police Commissioners' *(a)* elections to take place and *(b)* terms of office to begin. [13741]

Nick Herbert: As outlined in chapter 2 of the Home Office's consultation document "Policing in the 21st century: reconnecting police and the people" (published on 26 July 2010), Police and Crime Commissioners will be elected to serve four-year terms from 2012. Their terms of office will begin shortly after elections, although the exact details will be confirmed following the current consultation.

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her timetable is for the passage of legislation to provide for the election of police commissioners. [13742]

Nick Herbert: As set out in the Structural Reform Plan, I intend to introduce legislation regarding police and crime commissioners early in the first session, subject to parliamentary time, and hope to receive Royal Assent for the Bill by November 2011. I expect the first elections to take place in 2012.

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether members of political parties will be eligible to be elected as police commissioners. [13743]

Nick Herbert: Yes.

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with electoral registration officers (EROs) on proposals for the election of police commissioners; and whether EROs will administer such elections. [13744]

Nick Herbert: We have been consulting the Association of Electoral Administrators (AEA) on the administration of the election of police and crime commissioners, and we will continue to engage with them until the arrangements for the elections are finalised. We will expect to use the experience of existing registration officers to support the elections.

Alan Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what advice she received from professional bodies in formulating her proposals for directly-elected police commissioners. [13911]

Mrs May: The Home Office has engaged constructively with our policing partners, including the Association of Chief Police Officers and the Association of Police Authorities, on the development of our proposals to introduce police and crime commissioners in England and Wales. These proposals were set out in the 'Policing in the 21st Century' consultation document, on which we invited comments before the close of the consultation period on 20 September 2010.

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Oral Statement of 26 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 723-24, on policing in the 21st century, whether candidates standing for the position of Police and Crime Commissioner will be vetted; whether a criminal record will make an individual ineligible for that position; and if she will make a statement. [14033]

Nick Herbert: We are still consulting with the public and our partners on the detail of the commissioners policy. I can confirm that, as with parliamentary and local government elections, certain people will be prevented from standing due to a previous criminal record.

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Oral Statement of 26 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 723-24, on policing in the 21st century, whether she proposes to give elected Police Commissioners a role in the work of *(a)* the Crown Prosecution Service and *(b)* local prosecutors; and if she will make a statement. [14034]

Nick Herbert: The remit of Police and Crime Commissioners is set out clearly in chapter 2 of the Home Office's consultation document "Policing in the 21st century: reconnecting police and the people" (published on 26 July 2010). The document states that the Government see a potential future role for commissioners in respect of the wider criminal justice system as further reforms develop.

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations she has received on her plans for directly-elected police commissioners from *(a)* senior police, *(b)* trade unions and *(c)* police associations and affiliated organisations. [15117]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office has engaged constructively with senior police, trade unions and police associations on the development of our proposals to introduce Police and Crime Commissioners in England and Wales.

These proposals were set out in the Policing in the 21st Century consultation document, published on 26 July 2010. So far we have received a total of 115 responses and 335 respondents have commented directly online. We expect further responses before the close of the consultation period on 20 September 2010.

John Stevenson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her timetable is for the *(a)* passage of legislation to provide for the election of police commissioners and *(b)* election of police commissioners. [15347]

Nick Herbert: As set out in the Structural Reform Plan, I intend to introduce legislation regarding Police and Crime Commissioners early this Session, subject to parliamentary time, and hope to receive Royal Assent for the Bill by November 2011 subject to the will of the Parliament. I expect the first elections of Police and Crime Commissioners to take place in 2012.

Alan Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to her Department's consultation on policing in the 21st century, what assessment she has made of other models of strengthening accountability in police authorities. [15694]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 16 September 2010]:* The Government are committed to the policy set out in the Coalition Agreement.

Alan Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Wales on the cost implications for Wales of introducing directly elected police commissioners. [15804]

Nick Herbert: I have had a number of meetings and discussions with ministerial colleagues to help formulate policy for the introduction of directly elected police and crime commissioners—these have included discussions on the policy implications for both devolved and non-devolved matters in Wales. I will continue to consult with key partners, including with the Secretary of State for Wales, and as the Bill progresses through Parliament.

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what provisions will apply to the election of a new police commissioner when *(a)* a commissioner resigns in mid-term and *(b)* a commissioner resigns in the period leading up to the following election. [15986]

Nick Herbert: The Government's consultation document "Policing in the 21st Century: Reconnecting police and the people" set out that if a commissioner should resign or be unable to do their job, the police and crime panels will be able to appoint an interim commissioner until a by-election can be arranged or the commissioner can return to the post.

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make an assessment of the merits of introducing a right of recall of elected police commissioners by the public. [15987]

Nick Herbert: The Government's consultation document "Policing in the 21st Century: Reconnecting police and the people" set out that we will introduce the power of recall in relation to Police and Crime Commissioners. Police and crime panels and the public may have a role in triggering the recall of Police and Crime Commissioners, but recall will only be used where the Independent Police Complaints Commission has ruled that serious misconduct has taken place.

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her estimate is of the cost of *(a)* administration of and *(b)* distribution of election literature free of charge in relation to the election of a police commissioner for Lancashire; and who will meet these costs. [15991]

Nick Herbert: The Government are still consulting on the detail of the policy for Police and Crime Commissioners, and no decision has yet been made on these issues.

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will ensure that the election for police commissioner in Lancashire is not held on the same date as any other election or referendum. [15992]

Nick Herbert: The Government are still consulting on the detail of the policy for Police and Crime Commissioners, and no decision has yet been made on these issues.

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how long she proposes the term of office of elected police commissioners will be. [15994]

Nick Herbert: As set out in the "Policing in the 21st Century" document, Commissioners will have a set four-year term of office and term limits of two terms.

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if her Department will take steps to keep monitoring the political party affiliations of the proposed directly-elected police commissioners. [16203]

Nick Herbert: The Government are still consulting on the detail of the policy for Police and Crime Commissioners, and no decision has yet been made on these issues.

Police: Advertising

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much each police force spent on advertising *(a)* on local radio, *(b)* in local newspapers and *(c)* in all other publications in the latest year for which figures are available. [15649]

Nick Herbert: This information requested is not held centrally.

Police: Bureaucracy

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations she has received on the proportion of police officers' time spent on administrative tasks. [13994]

Nick Herbert: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply given to my hon. Friend the Member for Stratford-on-Avon (Nadhim Zahawi) on 6 September 2010, *Official Report*, columns 6-7.

Police: Crime Prevention

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will assess the effect on public perception of the likelihood of crime of proposed reductions in funding to police authorities. [12018]

Nick Herbert: Cutting the budget deficit and ensuring the economic recovery is a Government priority, and the police along with everyone else will have to bear a fair share of proposed reductions in funding. Future police funding will be decided by the spending review, reporting on 20 October 2010. While it is for chief constables to use their expertise and decide what makes most sense for their force, I am quite clear that savings should be made by driving out wasteful spending, reducing bureaucracy and increasing efficiency in order to protect the frontline of policing.

On 26 July my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary announced the most radical reforms to be proposed for policing in this country for 50 years, which will reduce time-wasting bureaucracy, make the police more available and effective, and provide better value for taxpayers' money. The introduction of Police and Crime Commissioners will enable the public to exercise direct accountability over policing in their communities, strengthen their confidence in the police and cut crime and antisocial behaviour.

Police: EU Countries

Andrew Percy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many requests for evidence-gathering UK police forces have received from police forces of each other EU member state relating to offences of each category in each of the last five years; and how many such requests were refused in each case. [14713]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 13 September 2010]:* Requests for evidence in criminal matters from EU member states' judicial authorities are sent to one of three central authorities in the UK. These are the UK Central Authority in the Home Office, the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service and Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs. The tables placed in the House Library detail the best collated figures available for requests to the UK which have been acceded to or refused in the last five years. Where more than one offence is listed within a request, (eg rape and assault), only the primary offence has been included in order to avoid the double counting of requests.

Police: Finance

Alan Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what assessment she has made of the conclusions of the July 2010 report of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and the Audit Commission on the effect on frontline police numbers of a 12 per cent. reduction in police service budgets; [13676]

(2) what assessment she has made of the findings of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in its joint report with the Audit Commission published on 14 July 2010 that a reduction of over 12 per cent. to the Police Budget will negatively impact frontline police numbers; and if she will make a statement. [14309]

Mrs May: The Government have noted the reports of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and the Audit Commission carefully.

Alan Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on maintaining levels of central government funding for police officer salaries. [13677]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 8 October 2010]:* It is a matter for chief constables and police authorities how they use their budget. Police officer salaries come from within this budget.

Future funding levels for police forces will be determined by the spending review which will report on 20 October 2010.

Alan Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she plans to provide funding for additional police officers through savings achieved by abolishing identity cards; and if she will make a statement. [15696]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 16 September 2010]:* There are no net savings to the Exchequer in the current financial year from the decision to cancel ID cards. The allocation of savings made from the abolition of ID cards beyond the current financial year is a matter for the spending review.

Police officer recruitment remains a matter for each chief constable.

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the police precept for 2011-12 will be set; and who will be responsible for setting it. [15988]

Nick Herbert: Police authorities will be responsible for setting the police precept for 2011-12. Major precepting authorities such as police authorities must set their budgets by 1 March each year.

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the provisions of the Localism Bill will apply to police precepts. [15990]

Nick Herbert: Aspects of the Localism Bill, such as the provisions for referendums on council tax increases, are expected to apply to police precepts.

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to change the respective responsibilities of her Department and police authorities to fund categories of police funding. [15995]

Nick Herbert: The spending review which reports in October will offer further clarity on future funding.

Police: Mental Illness

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions her Department has had with police forces to improve the service provided by the police to people with mental health problems. [14612]

Nick Herbert: The National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) in conjunction with the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and mental health organisations, has developed a new learning resource entitled "Mental Health and Learning Disability", to improve the service provided by the police to people with mental health problems. This was launched and made available to all Home Office funded police forces, the Police Service of Northern Ireland, and British Transport Police in May 2010.

Police: Missing Persons

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make it her policy to require the sharing of best practice between police forces on missing persons investigations. [16342]

Nick Herbert: Work is currently under way between the Home Office, the National Policing Improvement Agency Missing Persons Bureau and the Association of Chief Police Officers to ensure that best practice in relation to missing persons investigations is disseminated to all police forces in England and Wales.

Police: Overtime

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much overtime was paid to police officers working additional hours *(a)* on days they were scheduled to work and *(b)* on a scheduled rest day in each of the last three years. [15607]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office does not hold these data.

Police: Telephone Services

Alan Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the oral statement of 26 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 723-24, on policing in the 21st century, what budgetary analysis her Department undertook prior to the Statement on the costs and benefits of introducing a single police non-emergency number. [13910]

Mrs May: The oral statement of 26 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 723-24, set out the Government's intention to

> "look for a cost-effective way to establish '101' as a single police non-emergency number so that it is easier to report crime and antisocial behaviour".

The Home Office is currently working with the police service and other partners to consider the costs and benefits of various options for implementing a single police non-emergency number.

Police: Unidentified Bodies

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent by police forces on matching unidentified bodies with persons reported missing in 2009-10. [16339]

Nick Herbert: The expenditure by police forces on missing persons investigations is not collated centrally.

Police: Wolverhampton

Emma Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers were based in Wolverhampton North East constituency *(a)* in 1997 and *(b)* on the latest date for which information is available. [13378]

Nick Herbert: Police personnel data are not collected at constituency level. There were 7,113 police officers in West Midlands Police Force as at 31 March 1997 and 8,536 police officers as at 31 March 2010. Figures are provided on a comparable basis.

The Basic Command Unit (BCU) of Wolverhampton is part of West Midlands Police Force. BCU data were first collected in 2002. Wolverhampton had 646 officers as at 31 March 2002 and 670 as at 31 March 2010.

These and other related data are published annually as part of the annual Police Service Strength Home Office Statistical Bulletin. The latest bulletin can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/policeorg1.html

and bulletins for this and previous years are deposited in the Library of the House.

Proceeds of Crime

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the monetary value was of *(a)* cash and *(b)* other assets confiscated from criminals in 2009; and how much of that amount was redistributed for community projects (i) nationally and (ii) in Bedford. [15237]

Nick Herbert: In 2008-09, £148 million was recovered from criminals, which included £40 million in cash forfeitures. The previous Government's Community Cashback scheme gave local people a say in how £4 million of those recovered criminal assets should be spent in their communities in 2009-10. Under the scheme, local areas could bid for funding up to £95,000 and the Bedfordshire Local Criminal Justice Board successfully bid to fund six community projects. One of these projects was partially based in Bedford. Details of this and other cashback projects in Bedfordshire can be found at:

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20100115015804/
http:/cashback.cjsonline.gov.uk/cc.asp?area=2

In 2009-10, £153.7 million was recovered from criminals, which included £50 million in cash forfeitures.

Separately, money returned to individual law enforcement agencies, prosecution agencies and the courts under the Asset Recovery Incentivisation scheme is primarily aimed at driving up asset recovery performance but can also be spent on community projects. None of the assets recovered under this scheme were used for community projects in Bedford in 2008-09.

Information on use of the money under this scheme for 2009-10 is not yet available.

Prostitution

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases have been reported to the Metropolitan Police of sex workers being threatened for protection money in 2010; and in how many of these cases charges were brought against any individuals. [16072]

James Brokenshire: The information is not available from the recorded crime statistics collected by the Home Office. In an incident of a sex worker being threatened for protection money, it is the appropriate offence that will be recorded by the police, for example, a threat of being assaulted. Offences where the victim is a sex worker cannot be separately identified from other offences recorded within an offence classification.

Rape

Alan Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will take steps to implement the recommendations of the Stern Review on the handling of rape complaints by public authorities. [16064]

Mrs May: The Government are committed to improving the investigation and prosecution of rape and supporting victims. We are working towards long-term improvements that are embedded through the criminal justice system and as such this review, and the recommendations that are raised within it, deserve careful consideration. A full response to the Stern review will be published in March 2011 alongside, and in conjunction with, a cross-Government strategy to tackle violence against women and girls.

Special Constables: Recruitment

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what target she has set for the number of special constables to be recruited in *(a)* 2010 and *(b)* 2011; and if she will make a statement. [14814]

Nick Herbert: This Government have not set specific national targets in respect of overall special constable recruitment for 2010 or 2011.

However, as set out in the consultation paper 'Policing in the 21st century: reconnecting police and the people', the coalition Government are committed to increasing the number of people volunteering in policing.

Special constables, who take an active role in policing their communities on a voluntary basis, are very much an example of the Big Society that this Government would like to see develop.

The consultation on the future of the policing landscape is still ongoing and more detailed proposals will be announced over the coming months.

Taxis

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on taxi fares in each year since 1997. [12978]

Nick Herbert: All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Civil Service Management and Ministerial Codes.

The Home Department spend on taxis for the financial years 1997-98 to 2009-10 is set out in the following table:

	£ million
1997-98	0.03
1998-99	0.04
1999-2000	0.05
2000-01	0.09
2001-02	0.24
2002-03	0.36
2003-04	0.43
2004-05	0.65
2005-06	0.81
2006-07	0.96
2007-08	0.90
2008-09	0.12
2009-10	0.12

From 1997-98 to 2007-08, the figures include expenditure by Home Office headquarters, the Immigration and Nationality Department (IND), the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) and the Office for Criminal Justice Reform (OCJR). NOMS and OCJR transferred to the Ministry of Justice in 2007. IND thereafter became an executive agency on 1 April 2008.

Telephone Tapping

Alan Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she had with the Prime Minister's Director of Communications on her Department's communications strategy on its policy on telephone tapping. [15396]

Mrs May *[holding answer 14 September 2010]:* I have had no such discussions.

Terrorism Act 2006: Arrests

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were *(a)* arrested for and *(b)* charged with an offence under section 1 of the Terrorism Act 2006 in each year from 2006 to 2010. [13684]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 9 September 2010]:* There is no power of arrest within S1 of the Terrorism Act 2006. Individuals suspected of alleged terrorism offences are subject to arrest under S41 of the Terrorism Act 2000.

In relation to *(b)*, the Home Office does not collate statistics in this way.

Data on the number of individuals charged under Section 1 and 2 of the Terrorism Act 2006 are included in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin (Operation of

Police Powers under the Terrorism Act 2000 and Subsequent Legislation: Arrests, Outcomes and Stops and Searches). The available figures show that one person was charged for offences related to S1 and 2 Terrorism Act 2006 in 2006-07; three individuals were charged in 2007-08; and three individuals were charged in 2008-09.

A link to the relevant Statistical Bulletin is included in the following website:

http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb1809.pdf

Terrorism: Extradition

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many proposed extraditions of terrorist suspects have not proceeded for reasons related to rights contained in the European Convention of Human Rights in each of the last three years; and for what reason each did not proceed. [15561]

Nick Herbert: No extradition requests for persons accused of terrorist-related offences have been refused under human rights grounds in the last three years, although there are currently six cases before the European Court of Human Rights.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* cases regarding extradition from the UK in respect of persons accused of terrorist offences and *(b)* appeals by persons convicted of terrorist offences in the UK are active before the European Court of Human Rights. [15703]

Nick Herbert: There are six cases before the European Court of Human Rights which concern extradition requests for persons accused of terrorist-related offences.

The Home Office does not collate statistics in this way. However, the Home Office does publish statistics on arrests and outcomes under the Terrorism Act 2000 (Operation of Police Powers under the Terrorism Act 2000 and Subsequent Legislation: Arrests, Outcomes and Stops and Searches). The link to the last edition of the annual publication is provided at:

http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb1809.pdf

UK Border Agency: Pay

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what bonuses have been paid to members of the UK Border Agency management over the last two years. [12189]

Damian Green: The information in the following tables lists the bonus payments made to senior civil servants in the UK Border Agency, within the last two financial years.

Annex A: Performance year 2008-09 to 2009-10

	Grade of staff—SCS	
	2008-09	*2009-10*
Total number of staff	51	63
Total number receiving a non-consolidated performance payment or special one-off non-consolidated payment	38	[1]43
Total number receiving a non-consolidated performance payment	29	42
Performance cost (£)	295,000	220,000
Total number receiving a special one-off non-consolidated payment	9	2
One off payment cost (£)	27,778.70	6,000
Total cost (£)	[2]322,778.70	226,000.00

[1] One individual received both a non-consolidated performance payment and a special one-off payment, making the total number of individuals in receipt of an award 43 rather than 44.

[2] In our response to a parliamentary question from the then hon. Member for Castle Point (Bob Spink), dated 21 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1550-52W, we reported that we had awarded £343,605.08 to members of the senior civil service during 2008-09. We are now satisfied that the figure was actually £322,778.70.

UK Border Agency: Police

Mr Russell Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the level of savings which will accrue to the UK Border Agency from the removal of funding for three port police officers at Stranraer port in 2011-12. [15776]

Damian Green *[holding answer 16 September 2010]:* The saving to the UK Border Agency will be just under £147,000 per annum based on the previous year's salaries of the three officers in question. This figure includes all overtime and expenses.

Violence Against Women

Alan Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 27 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 514 on risk assessment, what progress she has made in considering the use of multi-agency risk assessment conferences in her strategy to tackle violence against women and girls. [16805]

James Brokenshire: The prevalence of violence against women and girls, including domestic violence, in our society is unacceptable. A cross-Government strategy will be launched in the spring to address this. I am in discussions with colleagues across government on how we will take forward our approach in this area as both coalition parties planned in opposition. This will include consideration of multi-agency risk assessment conferences.

Visas: Deportation

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people from each country overstayed a visitor visa in each year since 1997; how many people on each other type of visa overstayed that visa in each such year; what proportion of each was deported in each such year; how many in each category are awaiting deportation; and if she will make a statement. [15780]

Damian Green *[holding answer 16 September 2010]:* There are currently two main ways to identify an overstayer:

(i) On embarkation from the UK

(ii) Through enforcement action in country.

Until e-borders is fully implemented we are unable to identify all overstayers on embarkation.

Wines

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on wine in each year since 1997. [12815]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office accounting systems do not identify separate expenditure on wine. The information cannot be obtained without incurring disproportionate cost.

Home Office expenditure on official hospitality and entertainment conforms to departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, which complies with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety. Hospitality is defined as the provision of food, drink and entertainment of non civil servants where it is beneficial to the interests of the Department.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Alternative Vote: Referendums

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Blackburn of 14 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 798W, on electoral systems: referendums, what estimate he has made of the proportion of the cost of conduct elements of the proposed referendum on the alternative vote system which will fall on local authorities in Scotland if the referendum *(a)* is and *(b)* is not held on the same day as the election for the Scottish Parliament; and what calculation he has used to make such an estimate. [16383]

Mr Harper: The current estimated cost of the referendum on the voting system in Scotland is *(a)* £6.9 million when combined with the Scottish parliamentary election or *(b)* £9.9 million if held as a standalone poll. These estimates are based upon an assessment of the size of the electorate and the number of individuals who might apply to vote by post. These factors determine many of the costs, such as the number of ballot papers, polling stations, poll cards, postal ballot packs and estimates of labour costs. These costs will not fall on local authorities as the referendum will be funded from the consolidated fund.

Boundary Commissions: Internet

Dr Huppert: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what assessment he has made of the merits of making the Boundary Commission's data publicly available online. [16070]

Mr Harper: Clause 10 of the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill requires the Boundary Commissions to take such steps as they see fit to publicise their proposed recommendations. It will therefore be for the Commissions themselves to determine how to publicise relevant data, though at the most recent review the Commissions made use of their websites to publish information about the review. Electorate data for each part of the UK are available from the Office of National Statistics website.

Constituencies

Ian Austin: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how frequently he proposes that constituency boundaries will be reviewed following the changes envisaged in the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill; and if he will make a statement. [15763]

Mr Harper: Clause 8 of the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill requires the Boundary Commissions to submit reports before 1 October 2013, and before 1 October of every fifth year after that.

Ian Austin: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what process will be followed to determine proposed changes to the boundaries of parliamentary constituencies. [15765]

Mr Harper: The Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986, as amended by the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill, sets out the process the Boundary Commissions will follow in drawing up the boundaries of parliamentary constituencies. The Bill would require each Boundary Commission to propose recommendations for constituency boundaries that are in accordance with the Rules for the Distribution of Seats set out at the new schedule 1 to the 1986 Act. The Bill requires that the Boundary Commissions take whatever steps they see fit to inform people of their proposals; and to make copies available for inspection. There follows a 12 week period for representations on Boundary Commissions' proposals. A second 12 week period for representations will follow where proposals are revised. Any further revisions would then be final. Under the provisions of the Bill, the Speaker, as the ex-officio chair of the Boundary Commissions, is required to lay before Parliament a "progress report" in the January of the year before a deadline and each subsequent January until a final report containing the recommended constituencies is submitted to Government.

Ian Austin: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister by what date he proposes that the calculation of the number of residents of each proposed new parliamentary constituency should be published; and if he will make a statement. [15770]

Mr Harper: The Boundary Commissions will be required to use the parliamentary electoral register from 1 December 2010 to determine the electoral quota. The information that will be required to calculate the UK electoral quota in accordance with the provisions of the Bill is usually available from the Office for National Statistics in late February of each year. The four Boundary Commissions must use this UK electoral quota, but it is a matter for each Commission to decide how they communicate this information. We expect that the number of electors that will comprise each proposed constituency will be published alongside the proposals for constituency boundaries themselves, and that the final figures will then be included in the Boundary Commissions' reports to the Secretary of State.

Ian Austin: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister when he expects the three-month consultation period for proposed boundary changes for parliamentary constituencies to begin; and if he will make a statement. [15771]

Mr Harper: The commencement of the specified consultation period set out in clause 10 of the Bill will be announced by the relevant Boundary Commission when provisional recommendations for a constituency have been published. The Bill requires the Commissions to submit their reports before 1 October 2013.

Electoral Register

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether he plans to take steps to increase the level of voter registration before 1 December 2010. [15323]

Mr Harper: Maintaining a complete and accurate electoral register is the responsibility of electoral registration officers (EROs), in accordance with their duties under section 9A of the Representation of the People Act 1983. In carrying out this responsibility, as with other aspects of their role, EROs are monitored by the Electoral Commission, which sets performance standards and provides guidance on the performance of their duties. In addition, the Electoral Commission runs campaigns to encourage voter registration and provide information on elections as part of its duty under section 13 (1) (a) of the Political Parties Elections and Referendums Act 2000.

The Government are committed to taking steps to support EROs in their work in improving levels of registration. On 15 September I made a statement to the House, outlining the Government's proposed approach to speeding up the implementation of individual electoral registration and as part of this I announced that we will be trialling data matching during 2011—that is, comparing the electoral register with other public databases to find the people missing from the register. The aim is to tackle under registration, including among those specific groups most affected by it, and ensure that every opportunity to register is available to those currently not on the electoral register. I also announced that we will examine how electoral registration can be integrated into people's day to day transactions with government, for example when they move house, or visit the Post Office, or apply for a passport or driving licence.

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what steps will be taken to ensure that people with double electoral registration are prevented from voting twice in the proposed parliamentary voting system referendum. [15643]

Mr Harper: It is lawful for an individual to be registered at more than one address if they satisfy the respective Electoral Registration Officers that they meet the residence requirement for each address.

However, it is an offence under section 61 (2) (a) of the Representation of the People Act 1983 to vote more than once at an election for the same body. Thus, while a person can vote in different local elections where they are validly registered, they cannot vote twice in a UK General election or European Parliamentary election. Under paragraph 1 of Schedule 4 to the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill, section 61 (2) (a) above is applied (with the necessary modifications) for the purposes of the UK Parliamentary voting system referendum.

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what his most recent estimate is of the number of people who are registered to vote in more than one UK parliamentary constituency. [15664]

Mr Harper: Electoral registers are compiled at a local level by independent electoral registration officers.

Information about whether individuals have registered in more than one constituency is not collected centrally.

Ian Austin: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what mechanisms he plans to put in place to monitor changes in the number of people eligible to vote in parliamentary constituencies between elections for the purpose of maintaining smaller and more equal-sized constituencies; and if he will make a statement. [16204]

Mr Harper: The number of eligible electors in each parliamentary constituency in the UK is published each year by the Office for National Statistics, using data from electoral registers. More frequent reviews will ensure that constituency boundaries better reflect changes in the number of people eligible to vote and remain up to date and fair. At present reports are published every eight to 12 years. The Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill requires the Boundary Commissions to publish a report by 1 October 2013 and every five years after that.

Electoral Systems

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether he plans to take steps to ensure that in future elections voters who are queuing to vote at a polling station at the time it closes are able to cast their vote. [14836]

Mr Harper: The Government are considering carefully the Electoral Commission's reports on the May 2010 elections and will take any appropriate steps necessary to prevent the issues which arose at some polling stations happening again. It will be important, however, to make sure that any changes to rules are workable and would benefit the public.

Lobbying

Kate Green: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what meetings he has had with professional lobbying organisations in connection with the proposed statutory register of lobbyists since May 2010. [15662]

Mr Harper: The Deputy Prime Minister and I have not had any meetings with professional lobbying organisations in connection with the proposed statutory register of lobbyists since May 2010. I met with Elizabeth France CBE, the independent Chairman of the UK Public Affairs Council on 6 July 2010, along with Sir Phillip Mawer, the Chairman of the UK Public Affairs Council Implementation Team.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Advisory Committee on Historic Wreck Sites

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what financial saving his Department expects to realise from the abolition of the Advisory Committee on Historic Wreck Sites; [16061]

(2) what body will undertake those functions which were the responsibility of the Advisory Committee on Historic Wreck Sites; [16062]

(3) for what reasons he decided to abolish the Advisory Committee on Historic Wreck Sites. [16063]

John Penrose: The abolition of the Advisory Committee on Historic Wreck Sites (ACHWS) will streamline the provision of advice to Government on operation of the Protection of Wrecks Act 1973. It is expected to generate savings for DCMS of £1,424 per annum, which relates to operational costs associated with the appointment and reappointment of members to the ACHWS.

In future such advice will be provided by English Heritage in relation to heritage assets in English waters. English Heritage is Government's statutory adviser on the historic environment. It already provides statutory advice on the protection and conservation of terrestrial heritage assets in England so the abolition of ACHWS will help to simplify our landscape of public bodies.

Discussions with the devolved Administrations about the future procurement of advice on operation of the 1973 Act in Scottish, Welsh and Northern Ireland waters are ongoing.

BBC: Accountability

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 6 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 309W, on the BBC, what response was received from the chair of the BBC Trust on proposals to make the BBC more accountable to Parliament; if he will place in the Library a copy of the note of the meeting; and if he will make a statement. [15712]

Mr Vaizey: The BBC Trust has been fully and productively engaged on the matter. The meeting in June was private and no note was taken.

Brighton Pavilion

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will set out, with statistical evidence relating as closely as possible to Brighton Pavilion constituency, the effects of his Department's policies on that constituency from *(a)* May 1997 to April 2010 and *(b)* since May 2010. [13456]

John Penrose: The impact of the Department's policies, including those delivered by our arms length bodies, on the Brighton Pavilion constituency since 1997 include:

Digital switchover is due to take place in the Brighton Pavilion in 2011. By the time switchover is complete at the end of 2012, 98.5% of households nationwide will be able to receive digital TV—the same number that can currently receive analogue.

£53,000 of English Heritage grant offers to the Brighton Pavilion constituency in 2008-09

£25,149 of Exchequer investment to the Brighton Pavilion constituency provided through Sport England since 2002.

Almost £70 million of national lottery grants made to applications from the Brighton Pavilion constituency since 1997.

Almost 100,000 free swims taken in the Brighton and Hove area as part of the Free Swimming programme.

£9,617,829 given from Arts Council England to organisations based in Brighton Pavilion through the Grants for the Arts programme since 2003.

£1,689,500 of capital lottery funds allocated by Arts Council England for projects in the Brighton Pavilion constituency undertaken since 2003.

The Brighton Pavilion constituency has also benefited from other policies and spending whose impact cannot be broken down by constituency. This includes:

Over £4 billion of Exchequer funding spent on culture.

£448.9 million given in grants by English Heritage since 1997.

More than £5.5 billion invested in sport by the Government and the national lottery since 1997.

A 68% increase in national museum visits since 1998-99. There were a record 40.3 million visits to the national museums in 2008-09—10% of which were by adults from lower socioeconomic groups.

50% of buildings removed from the baseline 1999 Buildings at Risk register as their future has been secured.

90% of all pupils taking part in at least two hours of high quality PE or sport per week in 2008 from an estimated 25% in 2003-04—exceeding our target.

Since May 2010, Arts Council England has granted £78,767 to organisations based in Brighton Pavilion through the Grants for the Arts programme. The heritage lottery fund has provided £206,200 to the constituency.

Broadband

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what the average actual speed of broadband was in England in the latest period for which figures are available; [13726]

(2) what the *(a)* advertised and *(b)* average actual broadband speed in (i) Thornton-le-Street, (b) Filey and *(c)* Rosedale Abbey was in the latest period for which figures are available; [13727]

(3) what steps are being taken to connect remote villages and rural areas to fast broadband. [14271]

Mr Vaizey: I have been asked to reply in my capacity as a Minister in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The Government will ensure a universal connectivity of 2 Mbps by 2015. In addition, the Government will take a number of regulatory and public policy steps to accelerate the deployment of superfast broadband across the UK. BDUK will also announce the locations of three Superfast broadband pilots in the autumn, where the Government will assist with the cost of deployment of Superfast broadband in commercially challenging locations. We have also said we will consider the option of using a proportion of the BBC licence fee to support superfast broadband deployment after 2012.

According to Ofcom's UK Broadband Speeds Report, published in July 2010 the average speed of broadband in England was 5.1 Mbps. The Government do not hold information for the average speed for individual locations.

Ofcom's report is available on their website at:

http://consumers.ofcom.org.uk/2010/07/increase-in-uk%E2%80%99s-average-actual-broadband-speed/

Departmental Billing

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what the average cost to his Department was of processing the payment of an invoice in the latest period for which figures are available; and what proportion of invoices settled in that period his Department paid *(a)* electronically and *(b)* by cheque. [16160]

John Penrose: The average cost of processing the payment of an invoice was £9.90.

The Department is actively looking at ways of reducing the cost of processing invoice payments.

The proportion paid electronically (including by procurement card) was 99.14%, and by cheque was 0.86%.

These figures are based on costs and volumes from 1 April to 31 August 2010.

Departmental Chief Scientific Advisers

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport on how many occasions each Minister in his Department has met his Department's chief scientific officer since 6 May 2010. [15440]

John Penrose: Ministers at this Department have had no such meetings as yet.

Departmental Contracts

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what the monetary value is of contracts his Department has awarded to each *(a)* management consultancy and *(b)* IT company since 7 May 2010. [16190]

John Penrose: No management consultancy or IT contracts have been awarded by the Department since 7 May 2010.

Departmental Empty Property

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what the estimated monetary value is of each vacant *(a)* building and *(b)* parcel of land owned by his Department in each region. [16253]

John Penrose: The buildings occupied by the Department are leased, and not owned.

Departmental Press

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on newspapers, periodicals and trade profession magazines in each year since 1997. [16224]

John Penrose: The information set out in the table shows expenditure incurred by the Department on subscriptions for hard copy and online magazines, newspapers, books and other publications, access to specific research databases, the Stationery Office and other parliamentary information sources as well as legal online and hard copy updating services. The way information has been recorded does not allow us to disaggregate newspapers, periodicals and trade profession magazines from the overall expenditure.

Financial year	*Cost (£)*
2009-10	59,323.07
2008-09	200,707.36
2007-08	175,665.75
2006-07	160,367.67
2005-06	149,032.92
2004-05	160,896.15
2003-04	133,119.30
2002-03	173,411.08
2001-02	131,096.02
2000-01	122,884.86
1999-2000	114,658.81
1998-99	86,627.81
1997-98	95,412.71

Departmental Press: Subscriptions

Andrew Bingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many different newspapers *(a)* were delivered to the Secretary of State's office between 5 June 2009 and 11 May 2010 and *(b)* have been delivered since 12 May 2010; how many copies of each newspaper were delivered on an average day in each period; and what the total cost of those newspapers was in each month in each period. [15652]

John Penrose: The cost for supplying 13 newspapers to the former Secretary of State from June 2009 to end of April 2010 is in the following table.

Month	*Newspaper cost (£)*
2009	
June	175.50
July	[1]887.67
August	0
September	125.25
October	130.75
November	126.65
December	90.90
2010	
January	117.96
February	120.80
March	149.45
April	98.90

[1] July 2009 figure includes two one-off yearly subscriptions.

On his appointment in May 2010 the Secretary of State cancelled all paper deliveries to his office.

Departmental Secondment

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many staff his Department has appointed on secondment since 7 May 2010; and from what organisation each such member of staff has been seconded. [16272]

John Penrose: The Department has not appointed any staff on secondment since 7 May 2010.

Digital Broadcasting: Broadcasting Reception

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he has had discussions with the providers of Freeview on increasing their transmission capability to ensure a common level of service across the UK. [16371]

Mr Vaizey: After switchover 98.5% of households will be able to receive around 15 Freeview channels including all the public service broadcasting channels. In addition about 90% of households who get their signal from a main transmitter will receive services from all six multiplexes.

Coverage of these services is a commercial matter for the operators concerned.

For those who require more services, there are other options for receiving digital services via satellite or cable.

Equality: Public Expenditure

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if his Department will take steps to assess the effects on *(a)* equality of incomes, *(b)* equality of assets and *(c)* equality of access to services of measures relating to its expenditure under consideration in the Spending Review. [16356]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: My Department has a programme of work underway to analyse the impact on equality of access to services arising from policies to be announced in the Spending Review.

This will examine the impact under eight different strands—lower socio economic groups, BME (black and minority ethnicity), disability, gender, children and young people, religion, age and regional areas.

I believe there will not be an impact on equality of incomes or equality of assets arising from my Department's Spending Review settlement.

Government Olympic Executive: Consultants

Andrew Bingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what the administrative cost has been of each consultancy contract entered into by the Government Olympic Executive in each of the last five years. [16316]

Angus Robertson: The Department records the costs of consultancy contracts; however, it does not record separately the costs of administering the contracts into which it and the Government Olympic Executive have entered.

Grants: Sussex

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport to which *(a)* organisations and *(b)* projects in Mid Sussex constituency his Department has made a grant in the last five years; and what the monetary value was of each such grant. [14317]

John Penrose: The Department does not collate this information for its arm's length bodies. Accordingly, I have asked their chief executives to write to the hon. Member for Mid Sussex.

Copies of the replies will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Hillsborough Stadium

Mr Bradshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much funding his Department plans to contribute towards the exercise to identify files relating to the Hillsborough disaster for release. [15934]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: My Department was asked for £666,000 in support of the Hillsborough Independent Panel whose responsibilities include recommending files for release, and is contributing this full amount.

National Lottery: VAT

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he has discussed with Ministerial colleagues on the use of Lottery funds for the payment of value added tax repairs to listed places of worship in Wales after the Listed Places of Worship grant scheme has come to an end. [15835]

John Penrose: No discussions have taken place as there is no current proposal to use lottery funds to replace the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme, which makes grants equivalent to the VAT incurred in making repairs to listed buildings in primary use as places of worship. The future of the scheme will be determined during the forthcoming spending review.

Olympic Games 2012: Medals

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether his Department plans to issue a commemorative medal to mark the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. [15739]

Hugh Robertson: There are no current plans to issue a commemorative medal to mark the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games.

Royal Parks Agency

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what the timescale is for the transfer of responsibility for the Royal Parks Agency from his Department to the Mayor of London. [15548]

John Penrose: The transfer of the Royal Parks will require primary legislation and we are therefore currently seeking a suitable legislative slot.

S4C: Finance

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will discuss with the Secretary of State for Wales the representations he received from the Welsh Language Society on future funding arrangements for S4C. [15979]

Mr Vaizey: The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport is in close contact with the Secretary of State for Wales on the future funding of S4C and Welsh language broadcasting.

Sports: Bexley

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent estimate he has made of the number of people in the London borough of Bexley who actively participate in sport each week. [15577]

Hugh Robertson: The latest figures from Sport England's Active People Survey estimate that 14% of people in Bexley were regularly participating in sport.

This estimate is based on people participating in sport for at least three days a week for a minimum of 30 minutes each time.

Sports: Clubs

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking to develop links between local sports clubs and schools. [16388]

Hugh Robertson: Sport England works in close partnership with the Youth Sport Trust, National Governing Bodies (NGBs) of Sport, and the Child Protection in Sport Unit, to strengthen links between schools and clubs.

The Department is committed to increasing competitive sport in schools by introducing an Olympic and Paralympic style competition. The support offered by local sports clubs to schools will be an important element in making this a success.

St George's Day

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) whether his Department has made arrangements to mark St George's Day in 2012; [15738]

(2) what recent discussions he has had on arrangements to mark St George's Day in 2011. [15740]

John Penrose: I am pleased to say that English Heritage (which is responsible to DCMS) plans to mark St George's Day with events at several properties around the country, the biggest of which will be a St George's Day festival at Wrest Park in Bedfordshire. In addition the Department for Culture, Media and Sport will fly the St George's flag alongside the Union flag to celebrate St George's Day.

I have had no discussions on other arrangements to mark St George's Day.

Telephone Services: Fraud

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what recent estimate he has made of the cost to UK businesses of dial-through fraud; [15384]

(2) what steps he is taking to encourage telecommunication providers to prevent dial-through fraud. [15385]

Mr Vaizey: Dial-through fraud does not come within the remit of the DCMS.

UK Film Council: Portland

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what the monetary value is of the UK Film Council's public affairs contract with Portland; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the contract and the related project brief. [15057]

Mr Vaizey: After the Government announced the abolition of the UK Film Council, I understand the organisation hired Portland Communications to provide external communications and media support, for which it received £60,000. The Film Council has said that the brief was confined to media monitoring and collating stories and comments, drafting internal and external communications, and the handling of international media and press inquiries. The Film Council has confirmed that this external support has since ceased.

The terms and conditions of the contract are commercially confidential as Portland has refused permission to release the document.

Writers in Prison Network: Finance

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much *(a)* Arts Council funding and *(b)* other funding from the public purse was spent on the Writers in Prison Network Ltd in the latest period for which figures are available. [14978]

Mr Vaizey: In the current financial year the Writers in Prison Network (WIPN) will receive £165,163 through Arts Council England's Regularly Funded Organisation (RFO) programme. In 2009-10 it received £161,620.

The National Offenders Management Service provides WIPN with a grant of £80,000 per year. In addition, 17 prison establishments involved in the Writers in Residence scheme will each contribute £5,000 of their own resources.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what the objectives are of the funding provided from the public purse to Writers in Prison Network Ltd; and how performance against those objectives is measured. [14979]

Mr Vaizey: The Writers in Prisons Network (WIPN) promotes creative writing and reading across the prison system through a programme of writers' residencies. The initiative runs in partnership with the Home Office and the Prison Service.

WIPN works very closely with each establishment to design a residency, identifying specific outcomes and objectives and/or particular groups of offenders the establishment wishes to target, and its work impacts on a wide range of the Government's Seven Pathways approach to reducing reoffending.

The WIPN's overall objectives are monitored at an annual review meeting. The WIPN holds a Steering group meeting every three months with prison staff, including the Governor, Head of Learning and Skills and Writers in residence themselves to measure performance against the establishments' objectives.

TREASURY

Child Benefit: Uprating

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 5 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 94W, on child benefit, what estimate he has made of the average real terms change per child in 2010 prices of uprating child benefit payments in line with the retail prices index in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13 and *(c)* 2013-14. [15816]

Mr Gauke: The following table shows the estimated average change per week per child as a result of uprating the rates of Child Benefit by the change in the Consumer Prices Index rather than by the change in the Retail Prices Index.

£

	2011-12	*2012-13*	*2013-14*
Forecast change 1st child	0.05	-0.10	-0.35
Forecast change subsequent child	0.05	-0.05	-0.25

Child Tax Credit: Cumbernauld

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many families receive the baby element of child tax credit in Cumbernauld, Kilsyth and Kirkintilloch East constituency. [16321]

Mr Gauke: The number of families receiving the baby element in Cumbernauld, Kilsyth and Kirkintilloch East Constituency is 635.

This analysis is based on provisional information on families receiving tax credits as at April 2010. Further details about these data can be found in the HMRC snapshot publication "Child and Working Tax Credits. Geographical Analysis, April 2010". This is available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

Child Trust Fund

Richard Graham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the total sum accumulated in child trust funds to date; and if he will estimate the proportion of that sum which has been contributed *(a)* from the public purse and *(b)* by individuals; [15912]

(2) if he will estimate the average gross investment return on child trust funds in each year since their inception; [15956]

(3) whether his Department holds information on the *(a)* investment and administration costs and *(b)* performance of child trust funds. [16109]

Mr Hoban: Statistical data on a range of Child Trust Fund (CTF) information have been published annually; the latest statistics package was made available in November 2009 and can be found at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/ctf/stats.htm

The total value of funds in CTF accounts at 5 April 2009 was £1,985 million. An estimated £1,300 million of government payments had been made into accounts by this point. However, as the valuation of CTF accounts where the underlying investment is in stocks and shares will vary over time, it is not possible to determine how much of CTFs' current value is made up of government or individuals' contributions.

Information is not available on the average investment return on sums invested in CTF accounts nor is there any information held on the investment costs, CTF providers' administration costs or performance of CTFs. Government's administrative costs for CTF were £4.8 million in 2008-09.

Child Trust Fund: Livingston

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many children born to residents of Livingston constituency since 1 September 2002 have received a child trust fund payment since 2005; [15931]

(2) how much his Department has paid to child trust funds held in respect of children resident in Livingston constituency since January 2005. [15932]

Mr Hoban: Statistical information about Child Trust Funds is published on HM Revenue and Customs' website at

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/ctf/stats.htm

This shows that 7,824 children born on or before 6 April 2008 in the Livingston constituency have a Child Trust Fund account. The total amount of Government payments to Child Trust Funds is not available at constituency level.

Credit Unions: Finance

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his policy is on the provision of financial support from the public purse to community-owned and community-based credit unions. [15842]

Mr Hoban: The Government are supportive of the role financial mutuals such as credit unions play in communities, and more broadly in the financial service sector.

The Government are working with credit unions to evaluate how they can better serve their communities while remaining sustainable in the future.

Departmental Consultants

Alun Cairns: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* average and *(b)* highest daily rate paid to consultants by his Department was in each of the last five years. [12658]

Justine Greening: During 2009-10 the average daily rate paid for consultants was £641 (excluding VAT). The highest day rate was £1,696 (excluding VAT).

Figures for the years prior to 2009-10 were not recorded centrally and can be identified only at disproportionate cost.

Many contracts for consultancy services employ alternative pricing methods, for example, a fixed lump sum, where the day rates cannot be identified.

HM Treasury has implemented OGC's Consultancy Value Programme to further ensure that consultants are only used where the necessary skills are not available within the Department and that value for money is assured when it is necessary to use consultants.

The Government have pledged to reduce consultancy spend. The Department has implemented a consultancy freeze including across its agencies and non-departmental public bodies to ensure that consultants are only used when spend is of operational necessity.

Departmental Contracts

Ian Austin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the monetary value is of contracts his Department has awarded to each *(a)* management consultancy and *(b)* IT company since 7 May 2010. [16187]

Justine Greening: Since 7 May 2010 the Treasury has awarded:

No management consultancy contracts; and

Two IT contracts with values of £20,400 and £24,200 (both excluding VAT).

Departmental Empty Property

Mike Freer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the estimated monetary value is of each vacant *(a)* building and *(b)* parcel of land owned by his Department in each region. [16243]

Justine Greening: The Treasury currently has no vacant *(a)* building or *(b)* parcel of land.

Departmental ICT

Pete Wishart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which IT contracts awarded by his Department in each of the last five years have been abandoned; and what the monetary value of each such contract was. [12729]

Justine Greening: No IT contracts have been abandoned by the Treasury between 2005-10.

Departmental Internet

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether a risk assessment on child internet safety was conducted before the Spending Challenge website was launched. [13874]

Justine Greening *[holding answer 8 September 2010]*: The Spending Challenge website had a strict moderation policy and a dedicated team kept a close eye on content posted in order to remove the minority of ideas that were inappropriate as soon as possible.

The moderation policy was as per industry standards in relation to this project and therefore no additional risk assessment regarding internet safety was conducted before the Spending Challenge website was launched.

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many complaints his Department has received in relation to the content of contributions to its Spending Challenge website. [13984]

Justine Greening: The Government have received over 45,000 ideas on the Spending Challenge public website and the vast majority were constructive and helpful. As per the site's strict moderation policy, we have been clear that offensive ideas and comments are not welcome.

The Spending Challenge website received almost 250,000 visitors. We estimate that around 25 complaints were received via direct correspondence with HM Treasury. In addition, we received 3,500 'flags' notifying moderators about items of inappropriate content via the Spending Challenge website.

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department has received any complaints about the effect of contributions to the Spending Challenge website on *(a)* people with disabilities and *(b)* other minority groups; whether the police have informed his Department of any such complaints made to them; and if he will make a statement. [14940]

Justine Greening *[holding answer 13 September 2010]*: The Government have received over 100,000 ideas through the Spending Challenge website, the vast majority of which were constructive and helpful. The site has a strict moderation policy and we have been clear that offensive ideas and comments are not acceptable.

A dedicated team keep a close eye on the content posted and remove the minority of ideas and comments that are not appropriate as soon as possible.

The Government received a small number of complaints from individuals and organisations, including some which had been directed to the police, regarding comments submitted by individuals to the website. The Government have responded to these complaints and aimed to ensure that the minority of disruptive posts do not stop the public having their say on the Spending Challenge.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many staff are employed in his Department's cross-departmental team to consider suggestions submitted to the Spending Challenge website; [16148]

(2) how many of his Department's staff are employed to consider suggestions submitted to the Spending Challenge website. [16149]

Danny Alexander: The number of staff deployed on the Spending Challenge has varied depending on the stage the Spending Challenge has been at over the summer. No new staff have been recruited to support this exercise, with staff being either re-deployed temporarily from other roles, or contributing to this exercise as part of or alongside their normal roles.

One new team was temporarily established to undertake the initial sifting for the public sector element of the Spending Challenge exercise, with a maximum of 12 existing staff being reassigned from across Whitehall to this role during July and early August.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many ideas have been submitted to his Department's Spending Challenge website. [16150]

Danny Alexander: Almost 64,000 ideas were submitted to the public sector element of the Spending Challenge, with over 45,000 further ideas being submitted through the general public element.

Departmental Legislation

John Healey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many officials of his Department are working on preparations for *(a)* the Financial Reform Bill, *(b)* the National Insurance Bill, *(c)* the Terrorist Asset Freezing Bill, *(d)* the Equitable Life Contributions Bill and *(e)* the Office for Budget Responsibility Bill. [5119]

Justine Greening: The following table shows the number of HM Treasury (HMT) staff members working for at least part of their time on the bills named.

	Number of HM Treasury staff
Financial Reform Bill	13
National Insurance Bill	3
Terrorist Asset Freezing Bill	6
Equitable Life Contributions Bill	2
Office for Budget Responsibility Bill	5

Where appropriate HMT staff members will consult with other Government Departments and other teams within HMT.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Tom Harris: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the resources and staff available to him in respect of the competing priorities of his post. [16351]

Justine Greening: As a Department, HM Treasury regularly monitors resource and staffing information. Information is provided to the Departmental Board chaired by the Chancellor, which last met on 22 July.

In addition to this regular monitoring, the Department is currently undergoing a strategic review which will look at the resourcing and staffing needs for the future.

Departmental Operating Costs

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he has taken to reduce the running costs of his Department since his appointment. [9606]

Justine Greening: The Treasury Group has committed to finding £6 million of savings from its administration costs this year as part of the Government's £6.2 billion savings programme. From 24 May it has implemented a freeze on external recruitment posts which are not business critical, and required ministerial approval for all new consultancy spend over £20,000 and any public sector salaries above £142,500. It has also completed a review of all programmes over £1 million with a significant IT element.

As part of this, £200,000 will be saved from reducing the use of allocated ministerial cars, £125,000 from a 5% reduction in ministerial salaries and £400,000 from a reduction in bonus payments to members of the senior civil service. The Treasury has also revised its travel and expenses policies, to include tighter restrictions on the provision of refreshments for officials and on the use of first class travel and taxis.

Departmental Press: Subscriptions

Mike Freer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent on newspapers, periodicals and trade profession magazines in each year since 2001. [16234]

Justine Greening: Spending on newspapers, periodicals and trade profession magazines by HM Treasury is shown in the following table. Information is only available since 2002-03 due to the introduction of a new accounting system at that time.

	£000
2002-03	155
2003-04	143
2004-05	119
2005-06	179
2006-07	109
2007-08	142
2008-09	199
2009-10	119

Departmental Secondment

Ian Austin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff his Department has appointed on secondment since 7 May 2010; and from what organisation each such member of staff has been seconded. [16270]

Justine Greening: The information requested is provided in the following table:

Organisation	*Number of secondees since 7 May 2010*
Financial Service Authority	3
Bank of England	2
Monitor (the Independent Regulator of NHS Foundation Trusts)	1
PPP Arbitrator	1
The Ministry of Finance for Japan	1

Departmental Travel

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have been driven by the Government Car Service since the Government took office; and how much each of these persons has received in expenses for use of taxis, buses and underground trains in that period. [7956]

Justine Greening: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 29 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 498W, to the hon. Member for West Bromwich East (Mr Watson).

In addition, the Government publish on a quarterly basis the expenses incurred by senior officials, which includes use of the Government Car Service and other travel expenses.

EC Grants and Loans

Roberta Blackman-Woods: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has for the future mechanisms by which UK allocations from the European Regional Development Fund will be disbursed. [12778]

Justine Greening *[holding answer 6 September 2010]*: The emergency Budget announced the abolition of regional development agencies, which currently administer European regional development funds in the English regions. A White Paper on Sub-National Growth to be published later this year will set out further details on the Government's approach to promoting sustainable growth and the role of local enterprise partnerships, including how the responsibility for functions previously undertaken by regional development agencies will be taken forward.

EU Budget

Mr Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what analysis he has made of potential efficiency savings within the proposed EU budget for 2011. [15886]

Justine Greening: The Commission's draft EU budget for 2011 proposed a level of payments of €130 billion, an increase of 5.8% on 2010. This is out of step with the economic and fiscal reality across Europe. Within that, the Commission's proposal includes a 4.4% increase in EU institutions' administrative spending, to €8.3 billion. This is unacceptable at a time when Governments across Europe are taking difficult decisions to reduce the financial burden of their own administrations.

There is clear potential for efficiency savings in this draft EU budget and the UK is therefore calling for a cash freeze in the 2011 Budget. In doing so, we have pushed against increased administrative spend for additional staff in the EU institutions, called for greater value for money in areas of expenditure such as agricultural market interventions under the Common Agricultural Policy and questioned budget increases which have been proposed without proper justification or in areas with a track record of poor implementation.

Mr Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on the future level of the EU budget. [15887]

Justine Greening: Negotiation of the EU budget for the period 2014-20 is expected to begin in 2011. At the negotiation, the Government will strongly defend the UK's national interests and ensure the EU budget is focused on those areas where the EU adds value.

Meanwhile, the EU budget for the period 2007-13 was agreed by the previous Government in 2005, meaning the UK's contributions cannot easily be reduced. However, the Chancellor and Treasury Ministers use every available opportunity, including ECOFIN to impress upon counterparts the importance of containing the cost of the EU budget to the UK and delivering value for money. For example, the Chancellor has pressed for a cash freeze in the EU budget for 2011.

EU Emissions Trading Scheme

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to allocate future revenues raised through the auctioning of allowances under the *(a)* second and *(b)* third phase of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme; and if he will make a statement. [13901]

Justine Greening: Revenues from the auctioning of EU ETS allowances accrue to the consolidated fund and are allocated against general expenditure.

EU Law

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many officials in his Department work *(a)* full-time and *(b)* for most of their time on the negotiation, implementation or administration of EU legislation and consequent policies. [13783]

Justine Greening: The negotiation, implementation and administration of EU legislation and policies impacts on many areas of HM Treasury's responsibilities. The number of officials working within HM Treasury on these matters can vary: as of 23 September 2010, around 80 officials were spending most or all of their time on EU business. This figure excludes those currently seconded to EU institutions.

Government Departments: Grants

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer under what circumstances a formal funding agreement is required for the award by Departments of funds from the public purse to external organisations. [15960]

Mr Gauke: It is always good practice to document any such agreement. It helps to ensure certainty and avoid doubt. This is in line with the responsibilities of Accounting Officers set out in Managing Public Money, notably chapter 3.

Income Tax: Scotland

Mr Wallace: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received from businesses based in England and Wales on the likely effects on them of implementation of the Calman Commission recommendations for a separate income tax rate in Scotland, with particular reference to dual PAYE schemes. [16400]

Mr Gauke: The Government committed to implementing the recommendations of the Calman Commission in its Coalition Agreement and will bring forward legislation later this year. It has established an Implementation Group whose members are stakeholders from across the UK so that the impacts on both individuals and businesses can be understood and any burdens minimised. That Group is meeting for a second time in early November and will be informed by a technical group who will look specifically at the income tax issues. Aside from those discussions, the Chancellor has received no specific representations in relation to the effects of the implementation of the Calman Commission's recommendations on a separate income tax rate in Scotland.

Inflation

Mary Macleod: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the likely effect on the economy of not meeting the two per cent. target level of inflation. [16147]

Justine Greening: It is the independent Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Bank of England, under its monetary policy remit, which is responsible for judging the outlook for inflation The bank's August 2010 Inflation Report provides a full assessment.

The MPC, like other independent forecasters such as the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR), judge that temporary factors are contributing to the current elevated rate of inflation. The MPC's remit allows it to look through short-term movements in inflation and its central view is that inflation should continue to move back towards target over time.

The OBR's forecast for GDP growth at the June Budget was for it to rise from 2010, reaching 2.9% in 2013, and then easing in 2014 and 2015 due to demographic changes.

Low Incomes: Females

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the contribution of the Minister for Equalities of 6 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 153, what new ways of assessing the potential impact of Budget measures on women his Department plans to explore. [15236]

Mr Gauke: At the June Budget this Government took unprecedented steps in publishing more detailed analysis of the distributional impacts of the Budget than has even been done before. In addition to this, and as stated by the Minister for Equalities at the Adjournment debate on public expenditure reductions, the Treasury also remains open to exploring new ways of assessing and presenting the potential impact of Budget measures.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Baron: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when his Department plans to respond to the letters from the hon. Member for Basildon and Billericay of 5 July and 6 August 2010 on his constituent, Dr Warhurst. [15853]

Justine Greening: A reply has been sent to the hon. Member.

Mr Baron: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when his Department plans to respond to the letters from the hon. Member for Basildon and Billericay of 28 June and 4 August 2010 on his constituent, Mr Neppl. [15854]

Mr Gauke: I replied to the hon. Member on 7 September 2010.

Mr Spellar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter from the right hon. Member for Warley of 6 July 2010 on Mr Lamont. [15904]

Mr Gauke: I replied to the right hon. Member on 31 August 2010.

Monetary Policy

Steve Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent assessment is of the effect of quantitative easing on the structure of the economy. [16313]

Mr Hoban: The independent Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Bank of England has operational responsibility for monetary policy. The MPC decides on use of measures, including the asset purchase facility (APF), in order to target 2% inflation, as measured by the 12-month change in the consumer prices index (CPI).

The May 2009 'Inflation Report' explains how quantitative easing works to impact the economy through various channels including higher money supply, lower long-term interest rates and rising asset prices. An assessment of the impact on asset prices, in particular on the gilt market, is made in the May 2010 'Inflation Report' which says:

> "asset purchases appear to be having a sizeable downward effect on gilt yields...equity and corporate bond prices have increased significantly since early 2009. That is likely, in part, to reflect the exceptional monetary stimulus."

PAYE

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps HM Revenue and Customs plans to take to ensure that correspondence sent to individuals who have underpaid tax as a result of recent miscalculations in tax liability in the PAYE system is easy to understand and written in plain language. [15452]

Mr Gauke: Following customer feedback HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has recently improved the guidance notes and flyer which accompany the PAYE tax reconciliation form P800. Copies are available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/helpsheets/p800-notes.pdf

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/p800/flyer.pdf

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Extra Statutory Concession A19 is available to those who receive tax demands as a result of the recent miscalculations of tax liability under the PAYE system. [15453]

Mr Gauke: Extra Statutory Concession A19 allows HMRC in certain circumstances to forgo the collection of income tax and capital gains tax underpayments in certain circumstances. The concession is available in circumstances where all the information has been provided to HMRC and it has had the opportunity to address it. Individuals can find further guidance at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/esc/esc.htm

The concession, which is well established, does not apply that often in practice, and I do not want people to build up their hopes that it will offer some kind of panacea that would be unfair on taxpayers.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether HM Revenue and Customs has taken any disciplinary action against staff as a result of recent miscalculations in tax liability identified in its PAYE system. [15454]

Mr Gauke: The information requested is available only at disproportionate cost.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether HM Revenue and Customs has recruited additional staff to deal with individuals affected by recent miscalculations of tax liability in the PAYE system. [15460]

Mr Gauke: HMRC has not recruited additional staff to deal with the end of year reconciliation process. HMRC will redeploy existing resources to HMRC helplines, if required.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if HM Revenue and Customs will establish a dedicated *(a)* Member of Parliament hotline and *(b)* public helpline to deal with enquiries in relation to the overpayment and underpayment of PAYE tax. [15463]

Mr Gauke: A dedicated MP helpline has been in operation since 15 September. Customers already have the national helpline dedicated to support their PAYE queries.

If there is any doubt about the details included in the calculation, the customer should contact HMRC on 0845 3000 627 or write to HMRC at the address shown on the calculation so that the matter can be investigated.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the largest amount *(a)* underpaid and *(b)* overpaid by an individual has been as a result of recent miscalculations of tax liability made by HM Revenue and Customs in the PAYE system. [15464]

Mr Gauke: The information is available only at disproportionate cost.

Population: Wells Somerset

Tessa Munt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate from the tax and benefit records held by his Department the number of people aged 16 years and over resident in Wells constituency; and if he will make a statement. [15447]

Mr Gauke: The information requested is not available.

No estimates have been made at a constituency level of the gap between the population figures and the number of individuals paying tax or claiming HMRC benefits.

Poverty: Children

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether an analysis of the effects of implementation of measures announced in budget statements and pre-budget reports will be included in the annual Child Poverty Report to be made to Parliament under the Child Poverty Act 2010. [13245]

Justine Greening: For the first time Budget 2010 produced an analysis of the overall impact of tax and welfare measures. Work is under way to define what the annual Child Poverty report will cover.

The Government are developing a long-term strategy taking into account the causes as well as the symptoms of poverty. The right hon. Member for Birkenhead (Mr Field) has been asked to lead a review on poverty and life chances in the UK, including how to measure and make progress on non-financial aspects of poverty.

Public Expenditure

Andrew George: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what steps he plans to take to ensure that the implementation of the proposals in the *(a)* June 2010 Budget and *(b)* Spending Review will protect the vulnerable; [16217]

(2) what mechanisms he plans to put in place to assess the effects of the implementation of the proposals contained in the *(a)* Budget and *(b)* Spending Review on the most vulnerable. [16218]

Justine Greening: The June 2010 Budget announced a package of reforms to tackle unaffordable spending and support the most vulnerable, with measures announced in the Budget having no measurable impact on child poverty over the next two years. At this Budget the Government also showed their commitment to transparency by taking unprecedented steps in publishing more detailed analysis of the distributional impacts of the Budget than had ever been done before.

Regarding the spending review, the document "Spending Review Framework" sets out that the Government will:

> "look closely at the effects of its decisions on different groups in society, especially the least well off" (2.2 page 7).

The Government also produces the annual "Households Below Average Income" publication which provides details of composition and the number of households with low income levels. This, along with other data sources, are reviewed regularly to help the Government understand the impacts of policy change.

Andrew George: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the most recent Institute for Fiscal Studies analysis of the impact of *(a)* Budget and *(b)* Spending Review measures on (i) low income families, (ii) the economic recovery and (iii) the overall Budget objectives. [16350]

Justine Greening: The Treasury welcomes the innovative approach the Institute of Fiscal Studies (IFS) has taken to its revised analysis of the Budget and is open to exploring new ways of assessing the potential impact of Budget measures. However as the IFS states, in order to include previously un-modelled reforms, the report makes a number of assumptions which add uncertainty to the analysis. It is important that policy is informed by analysis that is proven to be robust. The Treasury has relied on a well-established methodology, similar to that adopted by the IFS in its post-Budget analysis. On the basis of this robust approach, the Budget is progressive and has no measurable impact on child poverty over the next two years.

The Government take account of a range of external views, including those of the IFS, when making their assessment of the UK economy and in policy formulation. The interim Office for Budget Responsibility provided an assessment of the UK economy, which took account of Budget measures on 22 June.

It is not appropriate to pre-judge the outcomes of the spending review process, but it should be noted that the Government set out in the spending review framework that they will "look closely at the effects of its decisions on different groups in society, especially the least well off, and on different regions."

Andrew George: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will undertake an analysis of the impact of options for spending reductions under the spending review relative to household composition. [16362]

Justine Greening: The Government set out in its Spending Review Framework document that:

> In light of its commitments to fairness and social mobility, the Government will look closely at the effects of its decisions on different groups in society, especially the least well off, and on different regions.

Public Sector: Minimum Wage

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost to the Exchequer of introducing a minimum wage of £7.60 for all public sector employees. [15223]

Mr Gauke: Using data from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, the Treasury estimates that the introduction of a minimum wage of £7.60 for all public sector employees would increase the public sector wage bill by around £690 million per annum.

Public Sector: Procurement

Ian Swales: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the monetary value of public sector contracts awarded in Redcar constituency was in each of the last five years. [15841]

Mr Maude: I have been asked to reply.

Local and central government bodies have not in the past been required to report the location of suppliers to whom they award contracts. So this information is not held centrally.

Going forward, it is coalition policy to publish transparently large central Government contracts online, and from these data it will be possible to identify the location of suppliers.

Redcar and Cleveland Borough council already publish current and past contract details on their website at:

> https://www.qtegov.com/procontract/contracts.nsf/fcontent?ReadForm&requesttype=view&requestview=authority&region=&authority=ORG-QTLE-75FDAN&sd=&stype=&rv=authority&start=1&count=10&contentid=1.008

Revenue and Customs: Standards

Jonathan Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the efficiency of HM Revenue and Customs call centres and helplines; and if he will make a statement. [16085]

Mr Gauke: The performance and efficiency of HMRC contact centres (which include the tax credit helpline) was recently assessed by the National Audit Office. The National Audit Office findings "Handling Telephone Enquiries" was published on 15 January 2010 with the subsequent Committee of Public Accounts report published on 25 March 2010.

Revenue and Customs: Telephone Services

Stephen Timms: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of telephone calls to HM Revenue and Customs were answered in each of the last 12 months. [14634]

Mr Gauke: The proportion of telephone calls to HMRC's centrally managed network of contact centres answered in each of the last 12 months, to June 2010, are shown in the following table.

HMRC contact centre call attempts

	Answered by advisers (percentage)	*Handled by IVR[1] (percentage)*	*Handled (total percentage)*	*Call attempts (million)*
June 2010	34.3	7.3	41.6	12.8
May 2010	32.4	8.7	41.1	13.3
April 2010	38.8	7.5	46.3	11.2
March 2010	53.9	11.3	65.2	8.5
February 2010	72.5	9.6	82.1	5.8
January 2010	60.8	11.5	72.2	8.3
December 2009	80.2	12.4	92.6	3.8
November 2009	82.0	9.1	91.1	4.7
October 2009	77.1	11.4	88.5	5.6
September 2009	65.3	8.4	73.7	7.2
August 2009	64.9	7.9	72.8	6.3
July 2009	59.4	8.7	68.1	9.6

[1] IVR = Interactive voice response/automated messages on the telephone call steering menu.

Tax Allowances

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what recent estimate he has made of the number of people who will have earnings of below £6,475 in 2010-11; [15539]

(2) what estimate he has made of the average amount of additional income to people in each income decile from the planned increase in the personal tax allowance; [15767]

(3) what estimate he has made of the proportion of the total additional income from the planned increase in the personal tax allowance which will go to people in each income decile; [15766]

(4) what estimate he has made of the proportion of the total additional income from the planned increase in the personal tax allowance which will go to those earning between £6,475 and £7,475. [15768]

Mr Gauke: The June 2010 Budget announced a £1,000 increase in the personal allowance for under 65s to £7,475 in 2011-12, with benefits focused on individuals on low and middle incomes through accompanying changes to the basic rate limit and national insurance upper earnings and profit limits.

As a result of these measures 880,000 of the lowest income taxpayers will be removed from tax altogether. It is estimated that those on incomes below £7,475 account for around 0.8% of total incomes above the personal allowance before the Budget announcement and 1.4% of the total benefits. These estimates are based on HMRC's personal tax model, based on 2007-08 Survey of Personal Incomes data projected to 2011-12.

Estimated impacts of these Budget announcements for all households by equivalised income decile in 2011-12 are provided in the table.

Equivalised income decile[1]	*Average gain from combined income tax and national insurance changes*[2]		*Proportion of total change*
	£ per year	*% net income*	
Bottom	30	0.2	2.1
2(£14,000)	70	0.4	4.8
3(£16,700)	100	0.5	7.4
4(£18,900)	120	0.6	8.8
5(£21,300)	160	0.6	11.1
6(£24,200)	190	0.7	13.6
7(£27,400)	230	0.7	16.3
8(£31,600)	230	0.6	16.1
9(£37,600)	230	0.5	16.1
Top (£48,500)	50	0.1	3.9
All	140	0.4	100.0

[1] Estimated lower income bound (for a couple household with no children) for each decile is shown in brackets.

[2] Excluding the June 2010 Budget announcement to increase the threshold for employer national insurance contributions by £21 a week above indexation.

Average household gains are lower than average in the lower deciles of the household income distribution because there are fewer basic rate taxpayers per household.

These estimates have been produced using HM Treasury's tax and benefit model, based on expenditure and food survey data projected to 2011-12. These estimates relate to changes to the personal allowance and national insurance upper limits announced in Budget 2010 only. Based on these same sources, it is estimated that around 9 million individuals have total income subject to income tax less than 6,475 in 2010-11.

Budget 2010 Annex A provides a fuller analysis of changes to personal tax, tax credits, benefits, and indirect tax in 2012-13.

Tax Evasion: VAT

Clive Efford: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many companies were liquidated consequent on proceedings for evasion of value added tax in each of the last five years; how many such companies were issued with notices under *(a)* section 160, *(b)* section 161 and *(c)* both sections 160 and 161 before action was taken; and if he will make a statement. [12605]

Mr Gauke: Where HMRC seeks liquidation of a company it will be as a result of unpaid tax debt and only where it really believes that it is the best course of action to protect the interests of the Exchequer and ensure fairness to those who pay their tax on time.

There is no central record to distinguish cases where the debt leading to liquidation was attributable to the evasion of VAT.

That information could be obtained only by re-examining the details of each case individually and only at disproportionate cost.

Clive Efford: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what criteria HM Revenue and Customs applies when taking the decision not to issue companies with section 160 and 161 notices before a company is investigated for alleged value added tax evasion; and if he will make a statement. [12606]

Mr Gauke: HMRC publishes public notices, codes of practice and factsheets to explain its processes so that taxpayers have the information to understand how they should manage their tax affairs and ensure their rights are protected.

Public Notices 160 and 161 set out HMRC's practice in relation to civil inquiries where it suspects tax irregularities as a result of dishonesty. They are issued to businesses where HMRC has information that leads it to suspect the trader of dishonest conduct which, if proven, may result in the imposition of a civil evasion penalty. The notices detail the circumstances in which they are considered appropriate.

HMRC has a variety of other remedies available to deal with suspected evasion, up to and including criminal investigation. The Department's criminal investigation policy is published on the HMRC website.

Tax Yields

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent assessment is of the relationship between the number of staff employed by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) and the amount of tax revenue obtained by HMRC. [14650]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 13 September 2010]*: The amount of tax revenue received by the Government in any given year depends on a number of factors, including:

the state of the economy eg the level of personal and corporate income, consumption, saving and investment;

the structure of the tax system eg the rates, thresholds and reliefs in operation;

the level of compliance by taxpayers; and

HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC) administration of the tax system, and the productivity of its compliance activities.

Through the use of new technology and increases in staff productivity HMRC has increased the amount of revenue bought in as a result of its compliance activities from £7.5 billion in 2005-06 to £12 billion in 2008-09.

Over the period April 2005 to April 2010, HMRC has reduced the number of full-time equivalent staff it employs by 23% (excluding the transfer of 4,641 FTE staff to the UKBA).

Taxation

Lorely Burt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to issue his remit letter to HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) in respect of 2010-11; with reference to the letter of 20 July 2009, what steps HMRC has taken actively to manage and reduce the £27.7 billion stock of tax debt over the course of the year; what target HMRC proposed to reduce debt over the CSR 07 period; how progress against that target was monitored; what progress HMRC has made towards meeting that target; what steps HMRC took to prioritise resources to protect tax revenues through tackling abusive avoidance, evasion and non compliance; and what progress HMRC has made against its target to reduce the tax gap by 2010-11. [15370]

Mr Gauke: The Government will set out their performance and reporting framework for Departments, including HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC), alongside the Spending Review.

In relation to the remit given to HMRC by the previous Chancellor in July 2009, I refer the hon. Member to HMRC's consolidated accounts for 2009-10, available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/hmrc-accs-0910.pdf

The 2009-10 annual accounts state that:

> Receivables as reported in the HMRC Trust Statement fell from £27.7 billion at 31 March 2009 to £26.1 billion at 31 March 2010—a 5.8% reduction.
>
> The Department has a target to reducing the proportion of debts remaining by 8% at 30 days old and 13% at 90 days compared with 2008-09.

Performance against this target will be reported in HMRC's annual accounts for 2010-11 next year.

As announced in the Budget in June HMRC will, this year, be using debt collection agencies to collect £140 million of additional revenue from existing tax debts. HMRC tailor their risk-based interventions according to customer behaviour and focus on the most significant risks to the collection of tax revenues.

HMRC's compliance strategy and its approach to reducing the tax gap is set out in Protecting Tax Revenues 2009, available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/pbr2009/protect-tax-revenue-5450.pdf

Progress against HMRC's target to close the tax gap by at least an additional £4 billion in 2010-11 will be reported in HMRC's future annual accounts.

The Government have recently announced new plans to tackle non-compliance in the tax system by making £900 million available to raise additional revenue from those who undermine the tax system. As part of these plans, funding will be available for placing up to £1 billion per year of tax debt out to private debt collection agencies.

Taxation: Aviation

John Thurso: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress he has made on his review of the taxation of air travel; and if he will make a statement. [14648]

Justine Greening *[holding answer 13 September 2010]*: The Budget announced that the Government will explore changes to the aviation tax system, including switching from a per-passenger to a per-plane duty. Major changes will be subject to consultation. Announcements on tax are made in the usual manner.

Taxation: Business

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects HM Revenue and Customs to conclude its review of the release of statistical information on time to pay arrangements. [13343]

Mr Gauke: HMRC intends to publish statistical information relating to the Business Payment Support Service in accordance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics (2009). A copy of the code can be found at:

www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/code-of-practice-for-official-statistics.pdf

Publication, which has been pre-announced on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/updates/oct10.pdf

is currently planned for 9.30 am on 29 October 2010.

Taxation: Graduates

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the average lifetime tax revenue that will accrue to the Exchequer from a *(a)* man and *(b)* woman who completed tertiary education in the last 12 months and is living in (i) the UK, (ii) the North East and (iii) Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency. [15847]

Mr Gauke: HMRC administrative data on incomes and income tax do not include information on education level.

Information on income tax for all taxpayers by age and gender (Table 3.2), by income (Table 2.5), by region (Table 3.13) and by Parliamentary Constituency (Table 3.15) can be found on the HM Revenue and Customs website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_tax/menu.htm

and

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_distribution/menu.htm

Taxation: Rebates

Stephen Timms: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what procedure taxpayers receiving a demand for tax underpaid in a previous year will be required to follow to demonstrate that they have no liability; and if he will make a statement. [14635]

Mr Gauke: Individuals with concerns about the details of a PAYE end-of-year reconciliation calculation should contact HMRC on 0845 3000 627 or write to HMRC at the address shown on the calculation so that the matter can be investigated.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether taxpayers whose net income for a previous year is reduced in the current tax calculation exercise will have their benefits for that year adjusted if necessary; and if he will make a statement. [14637]

Steve Webb: I have been asked to reply.

Income-related benefits such as pension credit, income support, jobseeker's allowance and employment and support allowance take account of income after tax. If someone receives a change in their tax liability as a result of the reconciliation exercise, they can ask for their benefit to be looked at again. Whether or not any benefit adjustment is made will depend on the circumstances of each case.

VAT: Registration

Simon Kirby: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with the Chief Executive of HM Revenue and Customs on the issuing of value added tax registration numbers to new businesses; and if he will make a statement. [13370]

Mr Gauke: Treasury Ministers have discussions with the chief executive of HMRC on a regular basis as part of the process of policy development and delivery. It is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

While HMRC aims to issue VAT registration numbers as quickly as possible, it is necessary to balance the speed of registration against the need to undertake further checks on some applications to safeguard the VAT system against fraud.

Waste Disposal: Whitsand Bay

Sheryll Murray: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether any payments have been made to the Crown Estate for the deposition of dredged sediment at the Rame Head offshore disposal site, Whitsand Bay, Cornwall. [16297]

Justine Greening: The sum of £500 was paid to the Crown Estate in 2006 in acknowledgement of the proprietorial rights and interests in the area concerned.

Welfare Tax Credits

Mr Love: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the level of household income is above which a household with *(a)* one, *(b)* two and *(c)* three children will cease to receive tax credits from April 2012. [15444]

Mr Gauke: Tax credits are tailored to each family's specific set of circumstances in relation to the number of adults, the number of hours worked, the age of adults, numbers of children, numbers of disabled workers/children, and the level of child care each family is using. As a result there is no single level of household income beyond which families with one, two, or three children will cease to receive tax credits.

The tax credits entitlement questionnaire, which is available on the HMRC website, provides indicative entitlements on the basis of various sets of circumstances.

Mr Love: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the monetary value is of each tax credit which is now to be uprated with reference to the consumer price index; and what estimate he has made of the monetary value of each in 2014-15 *(a)* with and *(b)* without the change in uprating method. [15450]

Mr Gauke: The information requested is provided in the following table.

£

	Value in 2011-12 under CPI uprating	*Value in 2014-15 under CPI uprating*	*Value in 2014-15 under RPI uprating*
WTC elements			
Basic element	1,980	2,120	2,180
Second adult element	1,945	2,080	2,150
Lone parent element	1,945	2,080	2,150
30 hour element	815	880	905
Severe disability element	1,130	1,210	1,245
50 plus element (16-30 hours)	1,360	0	0
50 plus element (30 hours)	2,025	0	0
Disability element	2,645	2,825	2,915
Childcare max – 1 child	—	—	—
Childcare max – 2+ child	—	—	—
CTC elements			
Child element	2,520	2,760	2,840
Disabled child element	2,795	2,985	3,075
Enhanced disabled child element	1,130	1,210	1,245

Working Tax Credit: Cumbernauld

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many households in Cumbernauld, Kilsyth and Kirkintilloch East constituency receive the 50 plus element of working tax credit. [16322]

Mr Gauke: This information is unavailable as it could lead to the disclosure of information relating to the tax affairs of individual taxpayers.

Provisional information on families receiving tax credits as at April 2010 can be found in the HMRC snapshot publication "Child and Working Tax Credits. Geographical Analysis, April 2010". This is available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

CABINET OFFICE

Charities: Fraud

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent estimate he has made of the annual cost to registered charities of fraudulent charity collections. [14795]

Mr Hurd: Licensing of public charitable collections is generally a matter for local licensing authorities in England and Wales. Records are not kept centrally of the number of licences issued whether for street or house to house collections and it would not be practicable to do so. Similarly estimates of the annual cost to charities of fraudulent charity collections are not kept, but charity sector estimates range between £5 million and £14 million.

Charities: Private Education

Mr Hepburn: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent representations he has received on the charitable status of independent schools; and if he will make a statement. [16450]

Mr Maude: I have received a small number of written representations from interested stakeholders about the charitable status of independent schools, and the Charity Commission's guidance on the public benefit requirement.

The Attorney-General has made a reference to the First Tier Tribunal (Charity) asking it to consider the operation of the public benefit requirement in relation to fee-charging charitable schools. As this matter is now before the Tribunal, it would not be appropriate to make a statement.

Civil Servants

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which civil servants have attended *(a)* the Chemistry Club, *(b)* the Climate Change Forum and *(c)* other networking events in the last 12 months. [14961]

Mr Maude: The Cabinet Office does not keep a central record of which civil servants have attended networking events. Departments are required on a quarterly basis to publish information about hospitality recorded by civil servants at Director General level and above.

Civil Servants: North East and North West

Ian Swales: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many civil servants employed by *(a)* Government Departments, *(b)* executive agencies and *(c)* other Government bodies had their primary place of employment in (i) Redcar constituency, (ii) the North East and (iii) the North West in each of the last five years. [15839]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many civil servants employed by (a) Government departments, (b) executive agencies and (c) other Government employers had their primary place of employment in i) Redcar constituency, ii) the North East and iii) the North West in each of the last five years. (15839).

I regret that estimates of the numbers of civil servants employed by Government departments, executive agencies and other Government employers by constituency are not available.

Estimates for the North East and North West are based on the Mandate collection (2005-2006) which provides approximately 90 per cent coverage of Civil Service departments and agencies and the Annual Civil Service Employment Survey (2007-2009) which provides 100 per cent coverage. The requested data are attached at Annex A.

Annex A

Civil service employment, Government Departments, executive agencies and other Government bodies in the North East and North West[1], all employees

Headcount

	2005[2,3]		2006[2,3]		2007[4]		2008[4]		2009[5]	
	North East	North West	North East	North West	North East	North West	North East	North West	North East	North West
Government Departments	18,540	22,080	18,170	23,430	16,920	23,090	16,480	22,800	17,540	23,690
Executive agencies	17,190	35,900	16,440	33,020	19,580	40,170	18,340	40,360	16,880	37,210
Other government bodies	80	1,470	80	1,430	140	1,740	120	1,690	1,720	4,000
All employees	35,800	59,440	34,690	57,880	36,640	64,990	35,440	64,850	36,130	64,900

[1] Numbers are rounded to the nearest ten.

[2] Mandate Data Collection only—incomplete coverage of civil service departments.

[3] Survey reference date 1 April.

[4] Survey reference date 30 September.

[5] Survey reference date 31 March.

Source:

Annual Civil Service Employment survey and Mandate Data Collection.

Civil Servants: Resignations

Mr Umunna: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many civil servants identified as *(a)* from black and/or minority ethnic backgrounds and *(b)* disabled left employment before retirement age in (i) 2008-09, (ii) 2009-10 and (iii) 2010-11 to date. [15852]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 21 September 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many Civil Servants identified as (a) from black and /or minority ethnic backgrounds and (b) disabled left employment before retirement age in (i) 2008-09, (ii) 2009-10 and (iii) 2010-11 to date. (15852)

Civil Service Statistics are published annually by the Office for National Statistics on the National Statistics website. Since April 2010, there has been no default retirement age across the Civil Service.

Statistics for 2010-11 have not yet been published. The requested data for years 2008 and 2009 are attached at Annex A.

Annex A

Civil Service Employment: Civil Service leavers before retirement age[1] [2] *—All employees*

		Headcount
	2008[3]	*2009*[3]
Black and/or minority ethnic	2,790	2,160
Disabled	1,970	1,710

[1] Numbers are rounded to the nearest ten.

[2] For the purpose of this analysis retirement age has been taken to be 65 years.

[3] Survey reference date 31 March.

Source:

Annual Civil Service Employment Survey

Departmental Consultants

Alun Cairns: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the *(a)* average and *(b)* highest daily rate paid to consultants by his Department was in each of the last five years. [12664]

Mr Maude: The information requested for Cabinet Office is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

In May 2010 the Government announced a freeze on new consultancy expenditure. Any exception to this freeze (where the estimated value is over £20,000) must be approved by the relevant Minister. In the case of the Cabinet Office, the Minister for the Cabinet Office approves any exception to the consultancy freeze. Expenditure on consultancy is only allowed if the consultancy is deemed to be operationally necessary, or the work cannot be done by in-house staff. All consultancy contracts are subject to a review every three months, for a maximum of nine months. Where contracts go beyond nine months, they must be submitted for approved to the Efficiency and Reform Group for consideration by the Chief Secretary and the Minister for the Cabinet Office.

Departmental Empty Property

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much his Department spent on vacant properties in each year since 1997. [13012]

Mr Maude: This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Fines

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many transport-related fines his Department has settled on behalf of its staff in each year since 2005; and what the cost to the public purse was in each such year. [13273]

Mr Maude: The information requested for Cabinet Office is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Responsibilities

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which *(a)* individuals, *(b)* companies and *(c)* other organisations he has met in an official capacity since taking office. [16425]

Mr Maude: The Government are committed to publishing information on Ministers' meetings with external organisations on a quarterly basis. Information for the first period (13 May to 31 July 2010) will be published shortly.

Departmental Training

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many external training courses were attended by staff of his Department in the last 12 months; and what the cost to the public purse was of each such course. [13272]

Mr Maude: All Cabinet Office management units have delegated responsibility for spend against their training budgets. The individual management units decide on appropriate training to meet their business needs. Information on attendance and cost is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Government Departments: Billing

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will publish all Government department invoice payment performance records on a monthly basis in a single location. [13380]

Mr Maude: As set out in the Coalition Programme, greater transparency across Government is at the heart of our shared commitment to enable the public to hold politicians and public bodies to account and to reduce the deficit and deliver better value for money in public spending. I agree that this should extend to invoice payment performance records, and I have asked officials in my Department, the Treasury and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills to report urgently to the Transparency Board on how the hon. Member's suggestion can be implemented.

Government Departments: Internet

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many websites operated by Government departments there were in each year since 2006. [9969]

Mr Maude: No central records are held with accurate figures for the total number of websites operated by central Government and non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) going back to 2006. Many websites were not reported and through work done by the coalition Government from 11 May 2010, we have already identified a further 81. The current number of open websites reported by Government Departments on 10 August 2010 is 742 that are operated by Departments and their NDPBs plus 103 operated by museums, charities, limited companies and partnerships in which the Government have a role. I shall be announcing plans alongside the spending review to close up to 75% of sites for which the Government are responsible.

Richard Harrington: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what estimate he has made of Government expenditure on websites paid for from the public purse in the last 12 months; [15936]

(2) what recent estimate he has made of the monthly average number of visits to Government websites; [15937]

(3) what recent estimate he has made of the number of websites funded from the public purse which generate revenue. [15938]

Mr Hurd: I have asked the chief executive of the Central Office of Information to write to my hon. Friend.

Letter from Mark Lund, dated 6 October 2010:

As Chief Executive of the Central Office of Information (COI), I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions 15936 and 15937 regarding Government websites.

PQ15936/7

Expenditure on websites is unacceptably high and an announcement will be made as part of the Spending Review of how it is planned to cut costs substantially. In line with Public Accounts Committee recommendations in their 16th report of session 2007/8 Government on the Internet: Progress in delivering information and services online (March 2008), department-run websites reported costs and usage for 2009/10, which may be found on the COI website at

www.coi.gov.uk/websitemetrics2009-10

Arm's-length bodies are required to report this financial year and this will be published in June 2011.

PQ15938

This information is not held centrally. I am however pleased to report that the number of websites will significantly reduce and an announcement about all those that will close will be made as part of the Spending Review.

Government Departments: Pay

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much each Department paid in bonus awards in 2009. [12751]

Mr Maude: Reward arrangements, including the criteria for non-consolidated performance pay, below the senior civil service are delegated to individual Departments and agencies. As such data on non-consolidated performance payments below the SCS are not held centrally and would be available only at a disproportionate cost.

Government Departments: Press Cuttings

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much *(a)* each Government Department and *(b)* the Government as a whole spent on press cuttings services in each of the last 12 months. [15795]

Mr Maude: The Cabinet Office does not keep a central record of all Government Departments' spend on press cuttings services. Any such records if they are held would be a matter for each Government Department.

Government Departments: Procurement

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps his Department takes when a Government department breaches competitive tendering guidelines. [14974]

Mr Maude: The Cabinet Office provides guidance and support to help Departments comply with public sector procurement rules; assists them in taking remedial action when necessary; and promulgates lessons learned to prevent a recurrence of poor practice.

We provide a feedback service for suppliers and other parties to escalate concerns over poor procurement practice, including breaches of competitive tendering guidelines.

In cases where the European Commission instigates infraction proceedings against the United Kingdom for a failure to comply with procurement rules we work with the procurement authority to resolve the issues raised.

Mike Freer: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps his Department has taken to encourage central procurement of *(a)* stationery, *(b)* information technology and *(c)* office supplies across Government Departments. [15365]

Mr Maude: We have mandated that all spending on common goods and service categories by Government Departments should take place through centrally agreed contracting vehicles. This includes the procurement of office supplies, including stationery, and ICT hardware.

Government Departments: Publicity

Philip Davies: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what *(a)* legislation and *(b)* guidance issued by his Department governs the content of publications funded from the public purse. [15570]

Mr Maude: The information requested is as follows:

(a) There is no legislation "issued by" Cabinet Office governing the content of publications

(b) Guidance issued by Cabinet Office that governs the content of publications is available on The Cabinet Office website in the form of a downloadable pdf. There is a writing guide, editorial guide and publication guidelines for consistency in production of publications.

Government Departments: Recruitment

Mr Wallace: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much was spent on advertising jobs in central Government Departments in *The Guardian* and *The Observer* newspapers in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* 2009. [13187]

Mr Maude: The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Mr Umunna: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many individuals resident in *(a)* Great Britain, *(b)* London, *(c)* the London borough of Lambeth and *(d)* Streatham constituency had been in receipt of jobseeker's allowance for more than 12 months in each month from January to September 2010. [15806]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated September 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many individuals resident in (a) Great Britain, (b) London, (c) the London Borough of Lambeth and (d) Streatham constituency had been in receipt of jobseeker's allowance for more than 12 months in each month from January to September 2010. (15806)

Table 1 provides this information from January 2010 to the latest available period of August 2010.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1. Number of persons claiming Jobseeker's Allowance for more than 12 months resident in (a) Great Britain, (b) London, (c) London borough of Lambeth, (d) Streatham constituency

	Great Britain	*London*	*Lambeth*	*Streatham*
January 2010	225,685	31,640	1,995	720
February 2010	236,630	32,795	2,095	740
March 2010	243,665	33,885	2,175	775
April 2010	249,780	34,860	2,215	790
May 2010	252,170	35,690	2,285	815
June 2010	250,725	35,965	2,335	830
July 2010	248,435	36,080	2,400	855
August 2010	247,510	36,595	2,450	865

Note:
Data rounded to nearest 5
Source:
Jobcentre Plus administrative system

National Citizenship Service

Stella Creasy: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will publish his estimate of the cost of the National Citizenship Service pilots; and what timescale his Department has set for their delivery. [15830]

Mr Hurd: On 22 July, the Prime Minister announced that the National Citizen Service pilots will take place from June to September 2011, following the end of the exam period, and will last for seven to eight weeks. This is subject to the outcome of the spending review.

The competitive commissioning process is underway and the Cabinet Office will have information on the cost of the pilots once this process is complete.

Older People

Mr Amess: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office ~~how~~ many *(a)* males and *(b)* females there were aged (i) 99, (ii) 100, (iii) 101, (iv) 102, (v) 103, (vi) 104, (vii) 105 and (viii) 106 years of age in England and Wales in each of the last three years. [15638]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated September 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking: how many (a) males and (b) females there were aged (i) 99, (ii) 100, (iii) 101, (iv) 102, (v) 102, (vi) 103, (vi) 104, (vii) 105 and (viii) 106 years of age in England and Wales in each of the last three years (15638).

The most recent year available is 2008. Age information is available up to age 104 and grouped for 105 and over. The table below contains the estimated number of centenarians for the latest three years, 2006 to 2008.

Mid-year estimates for the very elderly population by age and sex, 2006-08, England and Wales

	Males			*Females*		
Age	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
99	900	1,000	1,100	4,900	5,200	5,300
100	500	600	600	3,100	3,400	3,500
101	300	300	300	1,900	2,000	2,200
102	100	200	200	1,100	1,200	1,300
103	100	100	100	600	700	700
104	0	0	0	300	400	400
105 and over	0	0	0	300	400	400
Total	2,000	2,200	2,300	12,400	13,300	13,700

Note:
Figures rounded to nearest hundred, may not add exactly due to this rounding.
Source:
Office for National Statistics.

Population

Mr Clappison: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the most recent estimate of the Office for National Statistics is of the population of *(a)* the UK, *(b)* England, *(c)* Scotland, *(d)* Wales and *(e)* Northern Ireland in (i) 2020, (ii) 2030, (iii) 2050 and (iv) the most distant date for which an estimate has been made. [15719]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated September 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the most recent estimate is of the population of (a) the UK, (b) England, (c) Scotland, (d) Wales and (e) Northern Ireland in (i) 2020, (ii) 2030, (iii) 2050 and (iv) the most distant date for which an estimate has been made. (15719)

The most recent population projections of the UK and its constituent countries are based on the mid-year population estimates; for 2008. Population projections for the years 2020, 2030, 2050 and 2108 are given in the table below.

Projected population of UK and constituent countries for selected years, 2020 to 2108

				Million
	2020	*2030*	*2050*	*2108*
United Kingdom	66.5	70.6	76.8	92.5
England	56.0	59.7	65.7	81.1
Wales	3.2	3.3	3.5	3.9
Scotland	5.4	5.5	5.6	5.5
Northern Ireland	1.9	2.0	2.1	2.0

Source:
Office for National Statistics.

National population projections are available from the Office for National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=8519

Population projections become increasingly uncertain the further they are carried forward, particularly for smaller geographic areas, and therefore long-term projections should be treated with great caution.

Public Sector: Procurement

Mr Lilley: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the cost to businesses of complying with pre-qualification requirements for tendering for public sector procurement projects. [14839]

Mr Maude: No such estimate has been made. However, the Government are taking steps to streamline and simplify procurement procedures, including pre-qualification, in order to reduce the cost to businesses in bidding for public sector contracts.

Service Industries: Standards

Jon Trickett: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office for what reasons his Department no longer sends letters of congratulations to organisations that have achieved Customer Service Excellence. [13908]

Mr Maude: Customer Service Excellence (CSE) encourages public services to drive customer-focused change within their organisation.

Congratulatory letters to new holders were stopped due to normal embargo procedures when the 2010 general election was called. Certification bodies were informed of this in advance.

As with all public services, the Government are continuing to review its priorities on how we deliver more with less. CSE is part of this Comprehensive Spending Review process and decisions on congratulatory letters will be considered alongside other matters relating to the way in which the scheme is run and managed.

We will announce our conclusions on this in due course.

Sir Philip Green

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office on what terms and conditions Sir Philip Green was appointed to lead the Government's efficiency review; and whether Sir Philip has authority to instruct civil servants assigned to the review team. [14613]

Mr Maude: Sir Philip Green has been appointed by the Prime Minister to lead an external efficiency review into Government spending. The role is unpaid. Sir Philip is supported in this work by officials from the Cabinet Office and HM Treasury. The nature of Sir Philip's role is not one in which he would be required to instruct officials.

Statistics

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent representations he has received on the effect on public confidence in official statistics of ceasing the practice of providing access to official statistical releases to Ministers and their advisers prior to publication. [12844]

Mr Maude: I have received no such representations.

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will *(a)* accept and *(b)* implement the recommendations of the UK Statistics Authority on pre-release access to official statistics. [12848]

Mr Maude: The Government have recently reviewed the policy on pre-release access to official statistics and after careful consideration it has decided to continue the current arrangements. I wrote to Sir Michael Scholar, chair of the UK Statistics Authority, on 27 July to inform him of Government's decision. I have placed a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Unemployment: Brentford

Mary Macleod: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many children were living in workless households in Brentford and Isleworth constituency in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* 2010. [16196]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 21 September 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many children were living in workless households in Brentford and Isleworth constituency in (a) 2005, (b) 2007 and (c) 2010. 16196

It is not possible to provide reliable information on the Brentford and Isleworth constituency because of small sample sizes for the specific level of geographic detail required.

Unemployment: Young People

Mark Lancaster: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what percentage of unemployed people were aged between 18 and 24 years on the most recent date for which figures are available. [15448]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated September 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what percentage of unemployed persons were between 18 and 24 years on the most recent date for which figures are available. (15448)

For the period May-July 2010 it was estimated from the Labour Force Survey that 728,000 people aged between 18 and 24 years were unemployed in the UK. This is 29.5 per cent of all unemployed persons aged 16 and over.

Written Answers to Questions

Tueday 12 October 2010

TRANSPORT

Severn Bridges Tolls

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will commission an independent review of the effects on the economy of Wales of the Severn Bridges tolls. [17089]

Mike Penning: The Welsh Affairs Committee and the Welsh Assembly Government are both undertaking reviews of the effects on the economy of Wales of the Severn Bridges tolls. Both are due to report back with their findings next year. I will consider the findings of these reports and do not see a need for a further review at this time.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local Government: Pay

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will take steps to moderate the level of local authority chief executive and senior officer *(a)* salaries and *(b)* early retirement payments; if he will place restrictions on such people taking new jobs at a senior level in the public sector within a specified period of taking early retirement; and if he will make a statement. [16332]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 11 October 2010]*: Decisions about the salaries of local authority chief executives and senior officers, and any early retirement payments which either fall within the appropriate pay negotiating machinery, or the appropriate regulatory framework are matters for each local authority employer to consider in the light of local circumstances. While the specific terms and conditions of current and future employment is a matter for the relevant local authority to consider, the Secretary of State has recently called for the most senior local government officers to take a voluntary reduction in pay and also stated that no new council chief executive should be paid more than the Prime Minister.

The Government's view is that there needs to be greater local democratic accountability and transparency over senior remuneration arrangements and policies within local government. In order to achieve this, the Government intend to bring forward proposals to ensure that councillors are better able to be held to account for their decisions on senior pay by providing them with the power to vote on their council's remuneration policies. On senior pay transparency, the Local Government Association (LGA) recently published draft guidance to support councils in publishing their senior salary information online. The guidance was published on 1 October and can be viewed and commented on at:

http://lgtransparency.readandcomment.com/

INDEPENDENT PARLIAMENTARY STANDARDS AUTHORITY COMMITTEE

Apex Communications

Mr Liddell-Grainger: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, how much Apex Communications was paid for its work in establishing the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority; and what its remit was. [15732]

Mr Charles Walker: Apex Communications was paid £69,375 for work conducted over the period October 2009—July 2010. Apex was commissioned to provide a press office capability to deal with a high level of media interest and to organise activities. Apex then helped to establish and support IPSA's small in-house communications team. While the process of recruiting a director of communications was undertaken, it continued to provide practical help and strategic communication advice to IPSA through to July 2010.

Calyx (UK)

Mr Liddell-Grainger: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, how many responses the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority received to the invitation to tender for which Calyx (UK) was shortlisted; what the criteria were for the contract; and what the specification was for the system. [15727]

Mr Charles Walker: In total three responses were received to the invitation to tender for the Enterprise Solution and three for the Infrastructure Solution.

The assessment criteria for the procurement exercise were:

Ability to provide a requirements compliance traceability document.

Ability to provide an executive summary including an overview of the solution and the associated perceived costs.

Ability to provide details of their organisation.

Ability to provide details of how their solution meets all functional and non-functional requirements.

Ability to provide details of reference sites.

Ability to provide full details of the whole life cost including:

Software license capital costs

Technical architecture costs

Initial implementation costs

Annual costs associated with ongoing support

Suitable contingency plans detailed in the event of non-delivery.

Behaviours of the suppliers and cultural fit with IPSA.

Capability to deliver to required dates.

Creation of a web based access point for MPs and their staff.

Capability to publish data early and a flexible approach.

Outsourcing costs and implications.

Strong data security, both internal and nationally.

An architectural overview of the online expense system can be found on the following website:

http://www.systemsatwork.co.uk/download/content/PDF/expense@work%20Architectural%20Overview.pdf

GovGap

Mr Liddell-Grainger: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, how many staff members have been supplied to the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority by Govgap since May 2010; and at what cost to the Authority. [15728]

Mr Charles Walker: Two temporary staff members were provided for a short period by GovGap. This was at a cost to IPSA of £22,036 excluding VAT.

Manpower

Mr Liddell-Grainger: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, how many people at each pay band there are in the policy unit of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. [15943]

Mr Charles Walker: There are four members of staff in the policy team in the following pay bands.

	Pay bands (£)	*Persons*
Senior civil service pay band 1	58,200-117,750	1
IPSA Grade E	46,000-61,500	1
IPSA Grade D	35,000-46,000	1
IPSA Grade C	30,500-37,000	1

Members: Allowances

Mr Liddell-Grainger: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, pursuant to the answer to Question 14306, on changes to the rules and procedures of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, how many changes there have been to the rules and procedures implemented by the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority since its inception; and what the changes were which were made to the expenses scheme in July 2010. [15731]

Mr Charles Walker: As per the answer of 13 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 741W, a small number of changes to the MPs' Expenses Scheme were introduced in July 2010, following the consultation required by the Parliamentary Standards Act. The changes are detailed in "The MPs' Expenses Scheme: Second Edition", which has been made available to all MPs and is available on:

www.parliamentarystandards.org.uk

The changes are also detailed as follows:

MPs who own their own property, but are not claiming a mortgage interest subsidy, can now claim associated expenditure (e.g. bills).

MPs who are eligible for Accommodation Expenses can claim for journeys between any point in the constituency (or a home or office within 20 miles of their constituency) and Westminster or a London Area home.

For air travel, reimbursement is limited to the rate of an economy, or flexible economy, class ticket for the same journey at the time of booking.

Where more than one MP travels in the same car, only one of the MPs may submit a claim for the cost of the journey.

MPs may claim for the cost of an evening meal when they are required to be at the House of Commons because the House is sitting late but the meal does not need to be eaten on the Parliamentary Estate.

MPs may claim Travel and Subsistence Expenses for the cost of an overnight hotel for a member of their staff, where the staff member has necessarily travelled in assisting the MP in his or her Parliamentary functions, or in undertaking relevant training.

MPs may claim reimbursement for subsistence expenses for their staff members if the staff member necessarily stays overnight in a hotel to assist the MP in his or her Parliamentary functions, or if the staff member is undertaking training.

MPs may submit claims for the incidental expenses of interns and volunteers.

Pay

Mr Liddell-Grainger: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority how much has been spent under each budgetary heading on expenses for each member of the board of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority in each month of its operation; and for what purpose in each case. [14621]

Mr Charles Walker: Since IPSA began operations, only Sir Scott Baker has claimed expenses. These were all for travel on IPSA business. The months and amounts are detailed as follows.

	£
June	65.80
May	44.30
August	48.10

Mr Liddell-Grainger: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority how much each member of the communications team of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority receives in *(a)* salary and *(b)* benefits. [15729]

Mr Charles Walker: One member of the communications team receives a salary within the range £45,000-50,000, and the other member of the communications team receives a salary within the range £30,000-£35,000. The benefits received are similar to those offered by many employers—such as 25 days annual leave, pension contributions and the offer of a season ticket loan.

Mr Liddell-Grainger: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority how much the Director of Communications for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority will receive in *(a)* salary and *(b)* benefits in 2010-11. [15730]

Mr Charles Walker: The Director of Communications will receive a salary within the range £75,000-£80,000. The benefits received are similar to those offered by many employers, such as 25 days annual leave, pension contributions and the offer of a season ticket loan.

Telephone Services: Manpower

Mr Spellar: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, on average how many employees staff the hon. Members' enquiry line each day; and how many such employees staffed that enquiry line on 10 September 2010. [15903]

Mr Charles Walker: The IPSA core Information Line is staffed, on average, by five people. On 10 September, it was staffed by four people.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Energy: Prices

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will bring forward proposals for minimum standards for energy tariffs in his Department's Energy Security and Green Economy Bill; and if he will make a statement. [17186]

Charles Hendry: Providing customers with information about their supplier's cheapest tariff is about giving them the information they need to take control of household energy costs. We are working on the details of this proposal, but we are clear that cheapest tariff information needs to be presented in a straightforward and meaningful way to consumers.

Ofgem has recently introduced new over arching standards to prevent the selling of products that are inappropriate to a customer's needs or offer products that are unnecessarily complex or confusing.

In a recent open letter to suppliers, Ofgem, reminded suppliers of their obligations under these standards. A copy of this letter is available online at:

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Markets/RetMkts/ensuppro/Documents1/Open_letter%20on%20transparency.pdf

Feed-in Tariffs

Andrew Bridgen: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will take steps to change the rules of feed-in tariffs so those who installed microgenerators before 15 July 2009 will benefit to the same extent as those who installed microgenerators after this date. [14837]

Gregory Barker: Since the establishment of the coalition Government, we have been looking at several aspects of the feed-in tariff scheme, including the treatment of installations commissioned before the announcement of the scheme. After careful consideration, we have concluded that the scheme as it relates to these early adopters should remain unchanged. Generators who had installed before 15 July 2009 will not be eligible for the full rate of FITs, but those that benefited from the renewables obligation will continue to be supported at an equivalent rate.

Wind Power

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to open the Offshore Wind Site Development Competition; and what arrangements have been made for the administration of that competition. [17014]

Charles Hendry: As with all public spending, funding for offshore wind manufacturing infrastructure is being reviewed in the context of the spending review. Administrative arrangements in connection with DECC policies will be finalised in the light of the outcomes of the spending review; announcements on the spending review will be made on 20 October.

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans he has for the future funding of the Offshore Wind Site Development Competition. [17015]

Charles Hendry: All future funding plans for the Department are a part of the ongoing spending review. Announcements on the spending review will be made on 20 October.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Bars: Prices

Mr Spellar: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the House of Commons Commission, what the difference is between the wholesale and retail price of a pint of Guinness sold in each House of Commons catering outlet. [15900]

Sir Stuart Bell: The difference between the wholesale price and the retail price of a pint of Guinness in all outlets is £1.49.

EDUCATION

Academies: Equality

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he has sought advice from the Equality and Human Rights Commission on the likely effects of the implementation of the proposals in the Academies Bill on *(a)* black pupils, *(b)* Asian pupils, *(c)* pupils from a mixed ethnic background, *(d)* girls and *(e)* pupils with special educational needs. [9692]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 19 July 2010]*: The Secretary of State did not seek advice from the Equality and Human Rights Commission on the likely effects of the implementation of the proposals in the Academies Bill on the groups of pupils mentioned in the question.

The evidence, both from Academies programme and from similar programmes in other countries, shows that all pupils benefit when schools are given greater freedoms.

Academies: Finance

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his estimate is of the amount of additional funding that new academy schools will receive *(a)* nationally and *(b)* broken down by local authority area. [5215]

Mr Gibb: The additional funding received by new academy schools is intended to ensure that they are no better or worse off than they were as maintained schools, having regard to their additional responsibilities. It will consist of a grant to meet VAT costs, and a grant known as Local Authority Central Spend Equivalent

Grant (LACSEG) which is paid in lieu of certain local authority (LA) services. The amounts payable on a national basis will depend on the number of schools converting in each area. The VAT grant is a fixed percentage of the General Annual Grant paid to academies, the current percentages being 4.13% (Inner London), 3.62% (Outer London) and 3.54% (elsewhere). The grant is calculated by using historical data on schools' expenditure to derive a typical proportion of spend that attracts VAT.

The table shows the amount per pupil of the grant in lieu of LA services, for each LA, expressed for the financial year 2010-11. Differences in the amounts reflect varying levels of delegation of funding. In some but not all LAs an amount for SEN services is also payable for relevant pupils and this is shown separately.

New academy schools will also receive funding for insurance and rates at actual cost.

LA name	*LACSEG FY10-11*		*SEN LACSEG FY10-11*	
	Pri	*Sec*	*Pri*	*Sec*
Camden	721	663	148	143
Greenwich	542	522	40	68
Hackney	714	943	—	—
Hammersmith and Fulham	659	679	—	—
Islington	986	1,322	—	—
Kensington and Chelsea	816	770	—	—
Lambeth	605	578	—	—
Lewisham	517	599	184	121
Southwark	822	942	—	—
Tower Hamlets	679	756	90	70
Wandsworth	378	655	35	56
Westminster	693	797	—	—
Barking and Dagenham	365	394	160	89
Barnet	301	302	271	365
Bexley	269	263	268	195
Brent	410	413	133	160
Bromley	259	271	460	168
Croydon	296	339	—	—
Ealing	324	340	25	189
Enfield	384	366	56	6
Haringey	530	566	43	33
Harrow	276	340	190	149
Havering	413	413	133	125
Hillingdon	559	598	116	112
Hounslow	604	470	203	201
Kingston	312	343	110	118
Merton	515	581	—	—
Newham	489	545	—	—
Redbridge	359	365	70	118
Richmond upon Thames	519	571	438	95
Sutton	243	260	83	65
Waltham Forest	434	422	—	—
Birmingham	352	424	—	—
Coventry	343	393	628	387
Dudley	309	308	13	15
Sandwell	482	489	125	331
Solihull	325	272	1,041	153
Walsall	49[illegible]	380	—	—
Wolverhampton	640	789	192	199
Knowsley	463	503	239	206
Liverpool	622	572	86	95
St Helens	387	410	354	343
Sefton	354	308	323	292
Wirral	374	473	276	192
Bolton	429	328	184	110
Bury	440	276	—	—
Manchester	460	468	130	134
Oldham	297	323	217	265
Rochdale	392	442	404	284
Salford	494	507	162	472
Stockport	275	454	356	471
Tameside	551	518	137	153
Trafford	264	296	479	431
Wigan	365	359	270	273
Barnsley	593	633	—	—
Doncaster	391	438	81	86
Rotherham	394	411	212	223
Sheffield	426	396	273	267
Bradford	404	397	188	138
Calderdale	468	472	83	87
Kirklees	621	593	179	134
Leeds	396	441	32	18
Wakefield	542	543	534	360
Gateshead	599	699	218	273
Newcastle upon Tyne	516	541	158	40
North Tyneside	702	686	130	215
South Tyneside	428	403	47	50
Sunderland	506	495	—	—
Bath and North East Somerset	347	280	280	511
Bristol, City of	432	475	126	101
North Somerset	263	290	94	132
South Gloucestershire	434	426	37	17
Hartlepool	706	747	168	63
Middlesbrough	649	963	460	381
Redcar and Cleveland	509	546	279	300
Stockton-on-Tees	421	419	414	159
Kingston Upon Hull, City of	649	469	178	185
East Riding of Yorkshire	438	459	52	70
North East Lincolnshire	524	563	248	110
North Lincolnshire	468	469	239	333
North Yorkshire	278	334	265	397
York	311	452	327	406
Luton	393	507	82	63
Bedford	471	482	117	162
Central Bedfordshire	351	362	56	130
Buckinghamshire	182	217	241	354
Milton Keynes	387	358	101	51
Derbyshire	594	586	14	2
Derby	278	265	252	140
Dorset	492	493	448	609
Poole	296	257	43	37
Bournemouth	394	347	135	175
Durham	307	331	87	72
Darlington	579	728	28	21
East Sussex	388	405	395	130
Brighton and Hove	467	374	131	97
Hampshire	554	577	59	64
Portsmouth	373	382	142	123
Southampton	633	583	—	—
Leicestershire	476	469	289	329
Leicester	578	551	99	104

LA name	*LACSEG FY10-11*		*SEN LACSEG FY10-11*	
	Pri	*Sec*	*Pri*	*Sec*
Rutland	683	708	286	369
Staffordshire	345	335	174	223
Stoke-on-Trent	596	587	—	—
Wiltshire	310	247	333	137
Swindon	450	441	127	91
Bracknell Forest	342	366	246	143
Windsor and Maidenhead	373	323	604	354
West Berkshire	294	325	202	244
Reading	612	805	97	78
Slough	376	430	189	115
Wokingham	600	592	39	31
Cambridgeshire	337	318	200	—
Peterborough	499	485	269	274
Halton	705	721	249	178
Warrington	512	456	56	62
Devon	459	432	80	100
Plymouth	542	503	149	173
Torbay	549	528	118	107
Essex	453	435	63	50
Southend-on-Sea	423	467	4	6
Thurrock	715	723	150	204
Herefordshire	377	461	263	329
Worcestershire	371	414	93	74
Kent	342	322	36	38
Medway	269	285	37	42
Lancashire	290	347	—	—
Blackburn with Darwen	413	399	468	415
Blackpool	507	475	—	—
Nottinghamshire	308	299	249	213
Nottingham	818	756	104	39
Shropshire	457	553	162	450
Telford and Wrekin	358	335	136	157
East Cheshire	350	258	154	117
Cheshire West and Chester	414	305	154	74
Cornwall	568	457	124	92
Cumbria	424	458	221	172
Gloucestershire	465	406	16	16
Hertfordshire	262	269	66	73
Isle of Wight	406	383	451	387
Lincolnshire	456	462	170	53
Norfolk	305	334	154	266
Northamptonshire	296	299	145	143
Northumberland	395	469	526	217
Oxfordshire	374	392	388	548
Somerset	490	539	100	95
Suffolk	306	286	146	81
Surrey	249	311	244	125
Warwickshire	319	364	228	234
West Sussex	403	356	—	—

Departmental Public Expenditure

Angela Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will take steps to enable *(a)* vulnerable, *(b)* disabled and *(c)* other people to participate in local decisions on identification of (i) areas in which savings may be made and (ii) services for which funding should be maintained at current levels in respect of proposed reductions in area-based grant funding. [15873]

Robert Neill: I have been asked to reply.

Decisions on the level of future grant support for local authorities are being considered in the context of the spending review. The spending review is being run in an open, responsible and fair way that protects the poorest and most vulnerable in our society. We have consulted broadly with the public over the summer through the Spending Challenge. This has meant engaging and involving the whole country in the difficult decisions that will have to be taken.

Some councils are using effective ways of engaging the community in making decisions about what to invest resources in and where to make savings. For example, a number of councils are using a web-based consultation tool called YouChoose, developed by LB Redbridge:

http://www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pageId=22436695

This enables the public to be involved in the process and also helps them to understand the difficult choices facing councils. I would commend this approach to any council wishing to improve contributions from the community; and to go further by giving local people a direct say in spending as a part of the budget in a participatory budgeting exercise.

The most promising ideas will be taken forward in time for the spending review on 20 October. We will limit as far as possible the impact of reductions in spending on the most vulnerable in society, and on those regions heavily dependent on the public sector.

New Schools Network

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 6 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 351W, on the New Schools Network, what consideration his Department gave to the relevant regulations and agreements when agreeing to enter into the grant agreement with the New Schools Network. [15963]

Mr Gibb: The Department considered carefully the options for securing the requisite services from an external organisation. Given the need for specialist skills and experience to be in place quickly it was decided to award a time-limited grant to New Schools Network. In doing so the Department took account of the UK Public Procurement Regulations 2006 and the Compact Commissioning Guidance.

JUSTICE

Convictions

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Garston and Halewood of 26 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 684-86W, on convictions, what assessment he has made of the reason for the trends in conviction rates for *(a)* theft and *(b)* burglary in a dwelling between 2001 and 2008. [15563]

The Attorney-General: I have been asked to reply.

On 26 July 2010, the Secretary of State for Justice reported that the conviction rate for theft had increased from 79% in 1999 to 90% in 2008 and the conviction rate for burglary had increased from 63% to 74% over the same period.

The data show that performance started to improve noticeably after 2003. This coincides with three major initiatives aimed at increasing the effectiveness of criminal case management in the criminal justice system, namely the Charging Programme, the Effective Trial Management Programme and the 'No Witness, No Justice' Programme. It was the combined effect of these major initiatives that helped to deliver the improvement in conviction rates and ~~as~~ Minister responsible for the CPS I am delighted with its role in delivering these outcomes.

Convictions: Theft

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of convictions for criminal offences in each of the last nine years was attributable to convictions for offences of *(a)* burglary, *(b)* theft and *(c)* robbery. [15704]

Mr Blunt: The number of defendants found guilty at all courts for burglary, theft, and robbery, and the proportion they are of all convictions, England and Wales 2000-08 (latest available) are shown in the following table.

Data for 2009 will be published on 21 October 2010.

Number of defendants found guilty[1] [2] at all courts for burglary, theft, and robbery, by percentage of those found guilty of all offences, England and Wales 2000-08[3] [4] [5]

	Found guilty				Percentage		
	Burglary	*Theft[5]*	*Robbery*	*All offence groups*	*Burglary*	*Theft*	*Robbery*
2000[3]	26,222	108,917	5,891	1,423,702	2	8	*
2001	24,802	109,655	6,822	1,349,673	2	8	1
2002	26,691	109,809	7,711	1,421,285	2	8	1
2003	25,726	103,066	7,303	1,491,210	2	7	*
2004	24,252	96,144	7,481	1,548,500	2	6	*
2005	22,951	90,792	7,083	1,484,424	2	6	*
2006	22,955	87,008	8,105	1,421,401	2	6	1
2007	23,821	94,060	8,829	1,415,904	2	7	1
2008[4]	23,882	100,125	8,475	1,363,218	2	8	1

* Less than 1%

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Staffordshire Police Force were only able to supply a sample of data for magistrates courts proceedings covering one full week in each quarter for 2000. Estimates based on this sample are included in the figures as they are considered sufficiently robust at this high level of analysis.

[4] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

[5] The following statute, sections of the statute, and corresponding offence descriptions are used for Theft:
Theft Act 1968 S.1, S.11 and S.13
Stealing from the person of another
Stealing in a dwelling other than from automatic machines and meters
Stealing by an employee
Abstracting electricity
Stealing pedal cycles
Stealing from vehicles:
From motor vehicles
From other vehicles
Stealing from shops and stalls (shoplifting)
Stealing from automatic machines and meters
Stealing and unauthorised taking of motor vehicles:
Stealing motor vehicle
Other stealing and unauthorised taking:
Offences under the Theft Act 1968 S.1 not classified elsewhere
Removal of articles on show from places open to the public
Stealing conveyance other than motor vehicle or pedal cycle

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Crimes of Violence: Sentencing

Susan Elan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average length of a custodial sentence imposed in respect of grievous bodily harm was in each of the last five years. [15941]

Mr Blunt: The number of persons sentenced at all courts, the sentence they received and average custodial sentence length for grievous bodily harm offences, England and Wales 2004 to 2008 (latest available) are shown in the following table.

The offences shown in the table, which come under the Offences Against the Persons Act 1861, have been broken down into sub categories which together form the offence of grievous bodily harm.

Data for 2009 are planned for publication on 21 October 2010.

Persons sentenced, the sentence they received and the average custodial sentence length[1] at all courts for grievous bodily harm, England and Wales 2004 to 2008[2] [3]

Offence and sentence outcome	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm[4]					
Total sentenced	1,697	1,673	1,559	1,734	1,664
Of which:					
Immediate custody	1,542	1,516	1,445	1,548	1,548

Persons sentenced, the sentence they received and the average custodial sentence length[1] at all courts for grievous bodily harm, England and Wales 2004 to 2008[2, 3]

Offence and sentence outcome	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Average custodial sentence length (months)	48.6	48.6	46.5	43.7	49.4
Absolate discharge	2	2	2	3	—
Conditional discharge	1	2	2	—	—
Fine	—	2	4	4	1
Community sentence	92	75	52	85	43
Suspended sentence	16	22	25	36	25
Otherwise dealt with	44	54	29	58	47
Wounding or inflicting grievous bodily harm[5]					
Total sentenced	4,331	4,227	4,322	4,487	4,341
Immediate custody	2,278	2,182	2,118	2,159	2,188
Of which:					
Average custodial sentence length (months)	17.7	18.1	18.5	18.8	18.1
Absolute discharge	4	5	—	4	—
Conditional discharge	43	48	43	33	27
Fine	52	39	32	28	17
Community sentence	1,715	1,626	1,133	977	814
Suspended sentence	146	219	882	1,182	1,207
Otherwise dealt with	93	108	114	104	88
Racially or religiously aggravated grievous bodily harm[6]					
Total sentenced	32	38	49	60	68
Of which:					
Immediate custody	18	17	22	25	36
Average custodial sentence length (months)	19.3	10.5	18.9	21.6	14.0
Absolute discharge	—	—	—	—	—
Conditional discharge	—	1	1	1	4
Fine	2	—	2	5	2
Community sentence	10	17	17	17	17
Suspended sentence	2	3	7	11	7
Otherwise dealt with	—	—	—	1	2

[1] Average custodial sentence length excludes life and indeterminate sentences.

[2] The figures given in the table relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] Offences against the Person Act 1861 S.18—Wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm.

[5] Offences against the Person Act 1861 S.20—Malicious wounding: wounding or inflicting grievous bodily harm.

[6] Offences against the Person Act 1861 S.20 as amended by Crime and Disorder Act 1998 S.29(1)(a)&(2)

Racially aggravated malicious wounding:—wounding or inflicting grievous bodily harm.

Religiously aggravated malicious wounding:—wounding or inflicting grievous bodily harm.

Racially or religiously aggravated malicious wounding:—wounding or inflicting grievous bodily harm.

Source:

Justice Statistics—Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

HEALTH

Abortion: Young People

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the rate of terminations of pregnancies for women aged under 18 per 1,000 conceptions was in 2009; and if he will make a statement. [16000]

Anne Milton: In England and Wales, for women aged under 18 years, 494 per 1,000 conceptions were terminated by abortion in 2008 (the most recent year for which figures are available). Figures on conceptions are estimates based on the number of live births, stillbirths or legal abortions. They do not include miscarriages and illegal abortions. Figures are based on the woman's age at estimated date of conception. Data for 2008 are provisional. The rate of abortions in England and Wales for under 18-year-olds was 20.1 per 1,000 women aged 15 to 17 years in 2008.

Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many contracts to obtain data from the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency General Practice Research Database *(a)* his Department and *(b)* another agency of Government has entered into without tendering; [15827]

(2) what studies his Department has undertaken to ensure that the cost to his Department and other Government bodies of acquiring medical data from the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency General Practice Research Database represents value for money in comparison with the cost of obtaining similar data from commercial organisations. [15923]

Mr Simon Burns: Over the last three years, the General Practice Research Database (GPRD) has added new and additional services which means that simple comparisons of the cost of access to primary care data between the GPRD and that from commercial organisations are not meaningful.

The "contracts" referred to are actually in-house arrangements between the Department and one of its Executive agencies and therefore not subject to the requirements of procurement law.

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment has been made of the potential for a conflict of interest to arise between the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency function of regulating pharmaceutical products and that Agency's role as supplier of General Practice Research Database medical data to the same pharmaceutical companies; [15909]

(2) whether the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency General Practice Research Database department repaid the initial funding loan it received from the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) when the General Practice Research Database was moved from the Office for National Statistics to the MHRA. [15922]

Mr Simon Burns: The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has in place a robust separation of functions between the MHRA regulatory functions and the General Practice Research

Database (GPRD) to ensure there is no conflict of interest. The GPRD is run by its own dedicated team who have no involvement with any regulatory work of the MHRA, and none of the MHRA regulatory staff have access to the administration of the GPRD. The GPRD Group reports into a non-regulatory Division of the MHRA, the Information Management Division. The GPRD group maintains its own separate management accounts. GPRD and MHRA data are kept on separate physical servers, accessed through separate logical domains. As a result of this separation of functions the Agency is confident that no conflict of interest exists.

The GPRD moved from the Office of National Statistics to the Medicines Control Agency (MCA), the predecessor body to the MHRA in 1999. At that time the MCA took a decision to invest in the GPRD to develop it as a resource for medical and health research purposes undertaken in the public interest. This was an investment, not an 'initial funding loan' requiring repayment.

Our Life

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether *(a)* he and *(b)* officials of his Department have discussed with NHS North West the (i) establishment and (ii) funding of the social enterprise Our Life. [15567]

Paul Burstow: During the development and establishment phase of the Our Life programme, discussions took place between ministers and the North West strategic health authority (SHA). Along with other regional partners, departmental officials had discussions with the SHA in relation to this organisation. There is no requirement for the Department to approve the establishment of social enterprises.

The Department provided funding to each region to help support the reduction of harm from alcohol at a local level. In the North West, the regional Drink Wise programme contributed to specific projects, including Our Life.

Further information on the Our Life social enterprise is available at:

www.northwest.nhs.uk/whatwedo/publichealth/our_life

SCOTLAND

Departmental Contracts

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the monetary value is of contracts his Department has awarded to each *(a)* management consultancy and *(b)* IT company since 7 May 2010. [16177]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office has not awarded any management consultancy or IT contracts since 7 May 2010.

Departmental Manpower

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many officials his Department has appointed on fixed-term contracts since 7 May 2010. [16798]

David Mundell: All staff in the Scotland Office are on secondment, mainly from the Ministry of Justice or the Scottish Government. The Office does not employ staff directly.

Since 7 May 2010, one member of staff has joined the Office on a fixed-term contract through the Ministry of Justice.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if his Department will take steps to assess the effects on *(a)* equality of incomes, *(b)* equality of assets and *(c)* equality of access to services of measures relating to its expenditure under consideration in the Spending Review. [16348]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office does not deliver services directly to the public. However the equality duties inform all its work as a matter of course.

Departmental Secondment

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many staff his Department has appointed on secondment since 7 May 2010; and from what organisation each such member of staff has been seconded. [16266]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office does not employ staff directly. All its staff are on secondment from other public bodies, mainly the Ministry of Justice and the Scottish Government. As at 16 September 2010, the Scotland Office has appointed four members of staff on secondment since 7 May 2010. Two are from the Scottish Government and two are from the Ministry of Justice.

Departmental Work Experience

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many interns his Department has engaged in the last 12 months; and how many were *(a)* unpaid, *(b)* remunerated with expenses only and *(c)* paid a salary. [17205]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office has engaged no interns in the last 12 months.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Departmental Billing

Mike Freer: To ask the Attorney-General what the average cost to the Law Officers' Departments was of processing the payment for an invoice in the latest period for which figures are available; and what proportion of invoices settled in that period were paid *(a)* electronically and *(b)* by cheque. [16106]

The Attorney-General: The information requested is contained in the following table:

Law Officers Department	*Estimated average cost (£)*	*Proportion of payments by cheque (%)*
Crown Prosecution Service	3.84	6.8
Treasury Solicitor's Department[1]	6.42	12
Serious Fraud Office[2]	6.50	1

[1] TSOL figures also cover the Attorney-General's Office and HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate.

[2] The SFO figures include invoices processed on behalf of the NFA.

Departmental Empty Property

Mike Freer: To ask the Attorney-General what the estimated monetary value is of each vacant *(a)* building and *(b)* parcel of land owned by the Law Officers' Departments in each region. [16241]

The Solicitor-General: None of the buildings or land owned by the Law Officers' Departments is currently vacant.

Departmental Press: Subscriptions

Mike Freer: To ask the Attorney-General how much the Law Officers' Departments spent on newspapers, periodicals and trade profession magazines in each year since 1997. [16231]

The Attorney-General: The information requested is contained in the following table:

£

	CPS	*RCPO*	*SFO*	*TSOL*[1]	*NFA*
1997-98	96,692	—	17,436	—	—
1998-99	95,322	—	28,093	6,505	—
1999-2000	92,876	—	28,683	8,611	—
2000-01	101,135	—	27,458	16,831	—
2001-02	102,312	—	30,742	25,571	—
2002-03	138,122	—	41,466	22,470	—
2003-04	134,187	—	59,088	3,621	—
2004-05	143,594	—	55,474	3,878	—
2005-06	229,916	113,854	64,330	11,457	—
2006-07	269,302	115,923	80,641	13,115	—
2007-08	182,865	112,611	84,067	10,633	—
2008-09	193,910	147,021	69,999	11,823	—
2009-10	201,474	[2]77,954	59,419	6,220	542

[1] Tsol data include costs for AGO and HMCPSI. Information is not recorded for 1997-98.

[2] Data up to end of December 2009. RCPO merged with CPS on 1 January 2010.

Departmental Secondment

Ian Austin: To ask the Attorney-General how many staff the Law Officers' Departments have appointed on secondment since 7 May 2010; and from what organisation each such member of staff has been seconded. [16275]

The Solicitor-General: The Law Officers' Departments have not appointed any staff on secondment since 7 May 2010.

Female Genital Mutilation

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Attorney-General if he will undertake an investigation of factors affecting the number of prosecutions for offences related to female genital mutilation; if he will take steps to increase the rate of such prosecutions; and if he will make a statement. [14880]

The Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) is an active member of the inter-departmental Female Genital Mutilation Steering Group co-ordinated by the Home Office. This group has been working to raise public awareness and ensure that wherever these cases are reported, they are thoroughly investigated. In addition, they aim to ensure that measures are available to support victims and witnesses.

The prosecution of such cases is taken very seriously by the CPS and prosecutors are made fully aware of the issues surrounding this subject.

The CPS also works closely with the police to build strong prosecution cases. All cases sent to the CPS following an investigation are subject to the Full Code Test set out in the Code for Crown Prosecutors, which requires that there is sufficient evidence and it is in the public interest for a prosecution to proceed.

Sentencing: Appeals

Susan Elan Jones: To ask the Attorney-General (1) how many representations his Department has received requesting that a sentence given in a Crown court be considered for referral to the Court of Appeal for review because it may be unduly lenient in each of the last 12 months; and on how many occasions his Department has referred a sentence to the Court of Appeal for such a review; [15899]

(2) on how many occasions the Court of Appeal has increased on review the length of a sentence passed down by the Crown court on grounds of undue leniency in each of the last five years. [15939]

The Attorney-General: The power to refer certain sentences to the Court of Appeal as unduly lenient is one which I exercise personally. Statistics relating to unduly lenient sentences are published annually and are available on the Attorney-General's Office website. In the 12 months from September 2009 the previous Attorney-General and I were asked to consider sentences passed on 347 offenders. The sentences passed on 99 offenders were referred to the Court of Appeal for review.

The figures for the last five years are as follows:

	Number
2009	71 sentences were increased, of 108 reviewed by the court
2008	52 of 80
2007	75 of 113
2006	108 of 160
2005	67 of 127

DEFENCE

Aircraft Carriers

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many military personnel were deployed from aircraft carriers in *(a)* Afghanistan in 2001, *(b)* Al Faw in 2003 and *(c)* Sierra Leone in 2000. [15855]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 11 October 2010]:* HMS Illustrious was one of the first British units in theatre at the start of the Afghanistan operation, providing the delivery of early entry land forces into theatre.

Approximately 150 personnel from 40 Commando Royal Marines deployed by helicopter from HMS Ark Royal to the Al Faw peninsula during the invasion of Iraq in 2003.

HMS Illustrious deployed in the Carrier Strike role to Sierra Leone in 2000 and therefore did not deploy any troops directly. As part of the same operation, approximately 800 personnel from the Amphibious Ready Group based around 42 Commando Royal Marines deployed into Sierra Leone from a task group based around HMS Ocean, a Royal Navy Landing Platform Helicopter.

Christopher Myers

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether Christopher Myers attended pre-deployment training before participating in a visit to Afghanistan in January 2010. [16016]

Dr Fox: Christopher Myers received a pre-deployment briefing in line with current policy for visits of this nature.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on hospitality for events hosted by each Minister in the Department in each of the last three years. [13474]

Mr Robathan: As part of their duties Ministers are regularly asked to host receptions and meals in honour of visiting dignitaries. We do not have comprehensive costs records for the period in question. The following table details the costs of the events we have records for, by calendar year, from September 2007.

Period	*Name*	*Recorded cost of events in £ (rounded to the nearest £10)*	*Annual total (£)*
September-December 2007	Right hon. Des Browne MP	9,540	[1]9,540
January-December 2008	Right hon. Bob Ainsworth MP	16,050	
	Right hon. Des Browne MP	13,430	
	Quentin Davies MP	1,320	
	Right hon. John Hutton MP	960	
	Right hon. Baroness Taylor of Bolton	7,810	39,570
January-December 2009	Right hon. Bob Ainsworth MP	12,510	
	Quentin Davies MP	3,720	
	Bill Rammell MP	620	
	Right hon. Baroness Taylor of Bolton	20,640	37,490
January-April 2010	Quentin Davies MP	2,000	
January-April 2010	Right hon. Baroness Taylor of Bolton	150	
May-September 2010	Lord Astor of Hever DL	100	
May-September 2010	Right hon. Dr Liam Fox MP	1,410	
May-September 2010	Gerald Howarth MP	3,030	[2]6,690

[1] Part year

[2] To date

Departmental Secondment

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many staff his Department has appointed on secondment since 7 May 2010; and from what organisation each such member of staff has been seconded. [16271]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence has appointed 10 staff on secondment since 7 May 2010. They have come from the Department for Business Innovation and Skills, UK Trade and Investment, the Treasury Solicitor's Department and the national health service.

Secondments allow the outward and inward exchange of staff, ideas and skills between departments. They can help to develop individuals and enhance the business by introducing different perspectives, expertise and business acumen.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Antisocial Behaviour Orders

Alan Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which *(a)* chief constables, *(b)* police authority chairs and *(c)* local authority leaders have indicated support for her proposals to cease the use of antisocial behaviour orders. [15695]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 16 September 2010]:* Home Office officials are in constant dialogue with police and other professional bodies about a wide range of issues related to antisocial behaviour. No decisions have yet been taken on the future of the antisocial behaviour order but my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary announced a review of antisocial behaviour tools and powers and the views of *(a)* chief constables, *(b)* police authority chairs and *(c)* local authority leaders will be taken into account as part of this work.

Alan Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to her speech at the Coin Street Community Centre in London on 28 July 2010, what representations her Department has received from hon. and right hon. Members in favour of the use of antisocial behaviour orders since 1997. [15833]

James Brokenshire: It is not possible to provide the information requested.

Representations received by the Home Office cover a wide range of tools and powers, including antisocial behaviour orders and to provide a summary of these would entail disproportionate costs.

Domestic Violence

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what discussions she has had with the Association of Chief Police Officers on her decision not to proceed with domestic violence protection order pilots; [13987]

(2) what estimate she has made of the cost to the public purse of implementing domestic violence protection orders across England and Wales; [14066]

(3) what her estimate is of the cost of the proposed pilots on domestic violence protection orders to *(a)* participating police forces and *(b)* her Department for the duration of the pilots; [14067]

(4) for what reasons she plans not to proceed with the proposed pilots on domestic violence protection orders. [14162]

Lynne Featherstone: We have deferred, not halted, the pilot scheme of the domestic violence protection order (DVPO) so we could understand their potential impact better and be sure that they would work before committing public funds.

In tough economic times, the Government have to consider options for delivering improved protection and value for money across all aspects of their work. We will give further consideration to work in this area once the outcome of the spending review is known and we have explored options for reducing costs of implementation. We have had representations from a range of organisations and will keep the Association of Chief Police Officers and other partners involved in discussions about this.

The costs of implementing DVPOs across England and Wales would be impacted by a range of factors, including take-up, and it is not possible to accurately estimate these until a pilot has taken place The estimated cost for piloting the scheme within two police force areas was £700,000 based on an assumption of 250-300 possible applications for DVPOs across a 6-12 month period over the two areas.

Firearms

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 20 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 199W, on firearms, whether her Department intends to publish a report of the National Ballistics Intelligence Service's work on the illegal use of shotguns. [16413]

James Brokenshire: The National Ballistics Intelligence Service (NABIS) delivers a range of intelligence assessments and problem profiles to UK law enforcement organisations. The Service's role is to build these profiles in order to inform and develop operational activity that protects the communities of the United Kingdom from the threat of firearms crime. This includes the use, supply, manufacture and smuggling of illegal weapons into and within UK borders.

These assessments, and subsequent activity, are of a sensitive nature and often involve a range of law enforcement activities across multiple agencies and forces. In order to protect operational activity and intelligence gathering resources and techniques, NABIS does not share this information in the public domain and it would be inappropriate for Government to ask it to do so. NABIS may periodically share information relating to operational activity where a particular threat has been removed; however this is done on a case by case basis.

Hillsborough Independent Panel

Andy Burnham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what reports she has received on progress made by the Hillsborough Independent Panel; and what timetable the panel has set for the next steps in its work. [16134]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 11 October 2010]:* As my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary said in her written ministerial statement of 22 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 42WS, the Hillsborough Independent Panel has the Government's full support. That statement also confirmed that no changes have been made to the Panel's terms of reference. Within that framework it is for the Panel to decide how and when information is disclosed, initially to the Hillsborough families. We recognise both the importance of the Panel's work and the diligent and professional way in which it is conducting its duty.

Immigration

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people had overstayed the time limit of their leave to remain on the latest date for which figures are available. [16059]

Damian Green: It has not been possible to accurately estimate the number of people who have overstayed their limited leave to remain in the UK since the dismantling of embarkation controls.

The wider immigration programme, contained in "The Coalition: our programme for government" published on 20 May, includes a commitment to support e-Borders and re-introduce entry and exit checks.

I am aware of research by the London School of Economics (LSE) in May 2009 which gave a central estimate for the total irregular migrant population in the UK as at the end of 2007 of 618,000 (1.0% of UK population) within a range of 417,000 to 863,000.

The LSE report is available to view at:

http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/LSELondon/pdf/irregular%20migrants%20full%20report.pdf

Immigration Controls

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the forecast requirements for foreign workers of Tier 2 sponsors have been at the end of each month since the inception of the scheme. [14583]

Damian Green: The number of Certificates of Sponsorship (CoS) assigned to prospective migrants by sponsors under Tier 2 of the Points Based System (PBS) since inception of the scheme is 123,680. The monthly totals are as follows:

	CoS assigned
November 2008	50
December 2008	1,723
January 2009	4,167
February 2009	4,607
March 2009	5,805
April 2009	5,091
May 2009	5,160
June 2009	6,464
July 2009	6,970
August 2009	5,713
September 2009	5,833
October 2009	6,012
November 2009	5,936
December 2009	6,119

	CoS assigned
January 2010	5,623
February 2010	5,728
March 2010	7,194
April 2010	5,817
May 2010	6,334
June 2010	7,242
July 2010	7,577
August 2010	5,392
September 2010	3,123

Under Tier 2 of the PBS an employer wishing to sponsor a migrant under Tier 2 must assign a Certificate of Sponsorship (CoS) which the migrant must use to make an application for a visa.

Not everyone issued with a COS makes an application for a visa; and not everyone who applies for a visa is successful.

Protocol on Transitional Provisions

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) in relation to which EU acts the UK is entitled to make notification of non-acceptance to the Council under Article 10(4) of the Protocol on Transitional Provisions attached to the Treaty on European Union, the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community; [16352]

(2) to which EU acts which applied to the UK on the date of the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon the provisions of Article 10(1) of the Protocol on Transitional Provisions attached to the Treaty on European Union, the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community applied on that date; what EU acts which apply to the UK amend or repeal such acts; and on what date the UK decided to participate in, or participate in the adoption of the proposal for, each such amending or repealing act in which it had discretion to participate under the Treaties; [16353]

(3) what proposals are under consideration at EU level that would amend or repeal EU acts which apply to the UK and to which the provisions of Article 10(1) of the Protocol on Transitional Provisions attached to the Treaty on European Union, the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community apply; and on what date the UK decided to participate in any such proposals in which it had discretion to participate under the Treaties. [16354]

James Brokenshire: The provisions of Article 10(1) and the notification under Article 10(4) of the Protocol on Transitional Provisions apply to any measure adopted prior to the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty on 1 December 2009 which had a legal base in the police and criminal judicial co-operation title (VI) of the Treaty on the European Union (TEU) where those measures have not subsequently been repealed, annulled or amended by the adoption of a new measure. In making the notification, all such measures would cease to apply to the UK from 1 December 2014.

One proposal which will amend or repeal an existing measure has been adopted since the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty: under the terms of the Schengen opt-out, the UK did not opt out of a proposal for a Council Regulation to amend Council Decision 2008/839/JHA, which provides a legal basis for the migration of Schengen Information System (SIS) data from the current system to the future SIS II system.

The UK has also opted in to one proposal which remains under negotiation, the European Investigation Order, which would replace the European Evidence Warrant, the majority of the 2000 Convention on Mutual Assistance in criminal matters and its Protocol and the Framework Decision 2005/577/JHA insofar as it relates to the freezing of evidence. The UK notified its intention to participate in the European Investigation Order on 27 July 2010.

This response covers only those measures for which the Home Office has responsibility.

TREASURY

Child Poverty

20. **Ann McKechin:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what methodology his Department uses to assess the effects of its policies on the level of child poverty. [16499]

Justine Greening: As set out in Paragraph A20 in Annex A of the June Budget, the Department used its tax and benefit micro-simulation model to estimate the impact of Budget measures on child poverty. This modelling was based on data from the Family Resources survey, uprated to the appropriate year, and estimated using the change in relative child poverty of modelled tax and benefit reforms.

Interest Rates and Government Borrowing

21. **Matthew Hancock:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the relationship between changes in market interest rates and levels of Government borrowing. [16500]

Mr Hoban: The action announced by the Government in the June Budget 2010 to consolidate their fiscal position supports low interest rates and a fall in gilt yields. The independent Office for Budget Responsibility forecasts that debt interest payments will be £4 billion lower, and net debt as a percentage of GDP will be 5% lower, in 2014-15 than in its pre-Budget forecast.

SMEs

22. **Mr Raab:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what fiscal measures he is taking to increase levels of employment in small and medium-sized businesses. [16501]

Mr Gauke: Next year's increase in the employer national insurance contributions threshold will reduce costs to employers by over £3 billion. The national insurance contributions holiday announced at Budget reduces costs to new businesses in targeted regions. In many cases, new small business will pay no employer national insurance in the first year of employment.

Comprehensive Spending Review

23. **Penny Mordaunt:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on joint working between Departments as part of the comprehensive spending review. [16502]

Danny Alexander: The Prime Minister has appointed the Public Expenditure Committee to advise Cabinet on the high level decisions that will need to be taken in the spending review, including the approach to cross-cutting issues.

To support closer collaboration, the Treasury encouraged Departments to submit joint spending review submissions on key cross-cutting issues.

Joint working will continue to be important through the spending review period, including exploration of place-based budgets to encourage local budget holders to work together to deliver local priorities.

Tax System

24. **Dr Thérèse Coffey:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department is taking to simplify the tax system. [16503]

Mr Gauke: The Government are committed to simplifying the tax system. To help achieve this, the Government have established the independent Office of Tax Simplification.

Business and tax professionals have also consistently pointed to the way in which tax policy is developed, legislated and implemented as a contributing factor to overall complexity. We published a discussion document alongside the June Budget setting out proposals for a new approach to tax policy making, available at:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/junebudget_tax_ policy_making.pdf

Departmental Spending

25. **Peter Bottomley:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of arrangements for departmental spending reductions in place in May 2010. [16504]

Danny Alexander: On 24 May we announced £6.2 billion savings in 2010-11 and departmental budgets were reduced with immediate effect. Departments are responsible for ensuring that they live within their reduced budgets. In some areas they have been supported by HM Treasury and the Efficiency and Reform Group (ERG) in the Cabinet Office, for example renegotiating with Government's major suppliers to achieve cost reductions.

EU Globalisation Fund

Dan Byles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects the temporary EU Globalisation Adjustment Fund to be closed. [16278]

Justine Greening: The European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF) entered into force on 1 January 2007. It was established to support active labour market measures where major structural changes in world trade patterns lead to substantial redundancies. It is concurrent with the duration of the financial framework, ending on 31 December 2013.

In June 2009, the scope of the fund was expanded temporarily to support workers made redundant as a result of the global economic and financial crisis. This derogation will expire on 31 December 2011.

Any proposals relating to EGF, including for the continuation of the fund beyond 2013, will be scrutinised in terms of good value for money as with all areas of EU spending.

Revenue and Customs: Telephone Services

Mr Winnick: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what telephone numbers are available for members of the public to contact his Department to discuss tax credit issues; what reports he has received of difficulties experienced by members of the public attempting to contact his Department in this way; and if he will make a statement. [15256]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 14 September 2010]:* There are three numbers available to customers to discuss tax credit issues, available at:

http://search2.hmrc.gov.uk/kbroker/hmrc/contactus/start.jsp

1. The main telephone number: 0845 300 3900

2. For customers who are deaf or hearing or speech impaired: 0845 300 3909

3. For customers calling from outside the UK: +44 2890 538 192

Performance across HMRC's phone lines varies throughout the year depending on when key deadlines and contact peaks fall.

Treasury Ministers are aware that some taxpayers have found it difficult to get through to HMRC's helplines during this year's busiest periods. HMRC is committed to improving the performance of its telephone helplines, and has introduced a range of measures and improvements to improve the service the Department provides. These include:

Reducing the need for customers to contact HMRC by improving processes and the forms they issue.

Improving the HMRC website to make it easier for customers to find the answers to general inquiries.

Developing and improving the range of automated messages to provide answers to many customer queries without the need to speak to an adviser.

Using staff flexibly across HMRC's helplines to better match customer demand.

For tax credits the key peak runs from April to July 31, the deadline for customers to renew their claims. Demand in August and September can also be high as HMRC deals with customers whose claim has been terminated due to their failure to renew and claimants inform HMRC of changes to their dependents' educational status as the new school year starts.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Business Link: Manpower

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many Business Link advisers were employed on Train to Gain in the latest period for which figures are available. [16369]

Mr Hayes: Since April 2009 the Train to Gain brokerage service was integrated with Business Link. Business Link advisers give advice and support to employers on skills and where appropriate broker access to Train to Gain-funded provision. While some regions employ a fully integrated model with all advisers working in all support areas, in others, skills brokerage is delivered by dedicated skills advisers. In total 675 Business Link advisers were available to deliver skills brokerage in 2009/10.

National Apprenticeship Service

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many businesses used the National Apprenticeship Service in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10; and what the average cost to the public purse was of the service provided to such a business. [16408]

Mr Hayes: The National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) was established on 1 April 2009 as the first organisation established solely to promote apprenticeships to employers and young people. NAS does not hold information on the average cost to the public purse of supporting individual employers with these services.

Employers may work with the National Apprenticeship Service either directly or by accessing a range of services including: a dedicated telephone support line; apprenticeship website; and apprenticeship vacancies, the on-line recruitment system.

In the financial year 2009-10:

18,500 employers interested in apprenticeships contacted the apprenticeship national helpline. In addition 16,471 other individuals also used the helpline with apprenticeship enquiries[1].

About 2,600,000 visits were made to the apprenticeship website by individuals, employers and other organisations and 7,455 employers completed an employer web enquiry form[2].

Around 10,400 employers advertised for and recruited apprentices using apprenticeship vacancies (the on line system)[3].

Direct Mail and telemarketing activities allowed NAS to directly contact over 100,000 businesses to drive up leads for NAS sales teams to convert into new apprenticeship places. On top of this NAS sales managers contacted 27,000 businesses through events, intermediaries and their own calls[4].

[1] Statistics supplied by Call Credit the helpline contracted provider for the National Apprenticeship Service.

[2] Webtrends analytical software.

[3] Apprenticeship vacancy online system data.

[4] These additional statistics are derived from NAS records including the customer tracking system (CRM) these have not been published externally.

Public Holidays

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he plans to create a new annual bank holiday. [15895]

Mr Davey: There are no plans to create a new annual bank holiday as the pattern of bank holidays is well established and accepted but we keep suggestions of additional holidays under consideration.

Train to Gain Programme

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many businesses made use of the Train to Gain service in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2009-10. [16423]

Mr Hayes: The Train to Gain Brokerage Service recorded the number of businesses who engaged with the Train to Gain provision through the Brokerage Service between 2006/07 and 2008/09 as follows:

2006/07: 51,600 (note this figure includes 4,000 employers engaged through the former Employer Training Pilots between April and July 2006);

2007/08: 52,100

2008/09: 39,700

In April 2009 the Train to Gain Brokerage Service was integrated into Business Link. Figures recorded by Business Link for Employer Engagement indicate that for:

April 2009: July 2009 there were 16,149 employer engagements

August 2009: June 2010 there were 51,329 employer engagements.

No data are collected centrally on those employers who chose to access Train to Gain directly, either through a college or training provider.

Vocational Training: West Midlands

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he plans to take to support re-skilling initiatives in *(a)* the West Midlands and *(b)* Coventry. [16290]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 11 October 2010]:* In 2010/11 over £509 million is supporting skills training in the west midlands region, of which, over £20 million is supporting Coventry's residents. This funding covers a diverse range of programmes to meet the needs of individuals and employers, and includes apprentices. Learners resident in the Coventry constituency are accessing these opportunities and others in the wider region to raise and broaden their skill levels and improve their lives.

A consultation to inform a new skills strategy is currently under way. A key principle that will underpin the strategy is that the system should meet the needs of those who have poor work prospects or who have a high chance of spending long periods out of work. It is essential that any future skills system gives a respected, credible vocational training offer that will provide people with a route into employment and help them progress in their careers. The new strategy, to be published after the spending review, will take account of views on how we can best achieve that.

PRIME MINISTER

Departmental Fines

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Prime Minister how many transport-related fines his Office has settled on behalf of its staff in each year since 2005; and what the cost to the public purse was in each such year. [13265]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office (Francis Maude) on 11 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 249W.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Members: Pensions

Mr Spellar: To ask the Leader of the House what recent representations he has received on policy on hon. Members' pensions; and if he will make a statement. [15901]

Sir George Young: I am always happy to receive representations on this and other subjects from hon. and right hon. Members.

I refer the hon. Gentleman to my written ministerial statement of 26 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 70WS. There is broad party political acceptance that the current final-salary pension terms for Members of Parliament are not sustainable and that reform is needed. We anticipate that the current scheme for MPs will end. The Government proposes to consult IPSA on these matters and, in due course, to make a further statement in the light of the final findings of the Independent Public Service Pensions Commission.

CABINET OFFICE

Employment

Mr Clappison: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many and what proportion of *(a)* UK nationals, *(b)* people born in the UK, *(c)* foreign nationals, *(d)* non-UK EU nationals and *(e)* non-EU nationals (i) aged over 16 years and (ii) of working age were in employment in the UK in each of the last eight quarters. [15718]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated September 2010:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many and what proportion of (a) UK nationals, (b) people born in the UK, (c) foreign nationals, (d) non-UK EU nationals; and (e) non-EU nationals (i) aged over 16 years and (ii) of working age were in employment in the UK in each of the last eight quarters. (15718)

You may like to be aware that, following consultation, our practice in respect of labour market statistics changed in August 2010 from regarding working age as men aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59 to statistics based on those aged 16-64 for both men and women.

The table provided shows Labour Force Survey (LFS) estimates provided on this basis.

Employment levels and rates for people aged over 16 years in employment[1] [2] by nationality and country of birth. Three months ending March, June, September and December, 2008-10. United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Thousand and percentage

	Aged over 16 years									
	UK nationals	*Rate (%)*	*UK born*	*Rate (%)*	*Foreign nationals*	*Rate (%)*	*Non-UK EU nationals*	*Rate (%)*	*Non-EU nationals*	*Rate (%)*
2008 Q3	27,174	60	25,771	60	2,318	64	1,067	70	1,250	59
2008 Q4	27,026	59	25,585	60	2,377	64	1,074	69	1,303	60
2009 Q1	26,741	59	25,283	59	2,347	63	1,118	69	1,229	59
2009 Q2	26,526	58	25,095	58	2,303	62	1,104	68	1,199	57
2009 Q3	26,732	58	25,308	59	2,262	63	1,083	69	1,179	58
2009 Q4	26,691	58	25,259	58	2,288	62	1,069	68	1,219	58
2010 Q1	26,487	58	25,039	58	2,254	61	1,075	67	1,179	56
2010 Q2[3]	26,530	*58	25,080	*58	2,401	*62	1,178	*69	1,223	*57

Source:
Labour Force Survey (LFS)

Employment levels and rates for people aged 16 to 64 years in employment[1] [2] by nationality and country of birth. Three months ending March, June, September and December, 2008-10. United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Thousand and percentage

	Aged 16 to 64 years									
	UK nationals	*Rate (%)*	*UK born*	*Rate (%)*	*Foreign nationals*	*Rate (%)*	*Non-UK EU nationals*	*Rate (%)*	*Non-EU nationals*	*Rate (%)*
2008 Q3	26,507	73	25,137	73	2,297	69	1,056	78	1,241	62
2008 Q4	26,342	73	24,933	73	2,357	69	1,062	77	1,296	63
2009 Q1	26,050	72	24,632	72	2,326	68	1,104	77	1,222	62
2009 Q2	25,821	71	24,432	71	2,279	66	1,085	76	1,193	59
2009 Q3	26,005	71	24,621	72	2,237	68	1,065	76	1,172	61
2009 Q4	25,942	71	24,552	72	2,269	67	1,057	75	1,213	61
2010 Q1	25,721	70	24,313	71	2,236	66	1,065	75	1,172	59

Employment levels and rates for people aged 16 to 64 years in employment[1] [2] by nationality and country of birth. Three months ending March, June, September and December, 2008-10. United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Thousand and percentage

	Aged 16 to 64 years									
	UK nationals	*Rate (%)*	*UK born*	*Rate (%)*	*Foreign nationals*	*Rate (%)*	*Non-UK EU nationals*	*Rate (%)*	*Non-EU nationals*	*Rate (%)*
2010 Q2[3]	25,728	*71	24,314	*71	2,377	*67	1,164	*76	1,212	*60

[1] Includes self-employed and unpaid family workers.

[2] Excludes those whose nationality was not known.

[3] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates, as described below:

Guide to Quality:

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV60 - for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5% we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.

Key:

* 0 = CV<5% — Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered precise

** 5 = CV <10% — Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered reasonably precise

*** 10 = CV <20% — Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered acceptable

**** CV ? 20% — Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes

CV = Coefficient of Variation

Note:

It should be noted that the above estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites etc.).

Source:

Labour Force Survey (LFS)

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Borneo: Forests

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what support his Department has given to the Heart of Borneo project since its inception. [16695]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Government have been at the forefront of international support for the efforts of the Heart of Borneo project. Our missions in Brunei, Indonesia and Malaysia have actively worked with their hosts to help turn the Declaration into co-ordinated action plans, and with non-governmental organisations and businesses (including Shell, HSBC and Standard Chartered Bank) to build public support for the initiative. Our work has focused on how management of the rainforest, and associated life science research, presents all three countries with ways to align their economies with the global trend towards high-tech/low-carbon.

Departmental Contracts

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the monetary value is of contracts his Department has awarded to each *(a)* management consultancy and *(b)* IT company since 7 May 2010. [16183]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) signed a contract with Cable and Wireless Worldwide on 13 September 2010 for the provision of global telephony, data and video conferencing services. The Echo programme is a framework agreement for a period of 5.5 years, against which the FCO and its partners (UK Border Agency (UKBA) and the Department for International Development) can call off services as required. The current expectation is that the FCO and UKBA will together call off £82 million for services over 5.5 years. This framework contract will provide faster, cheaper and more reliable video conferencing, telephony and internet. The contract will save the tax payer up to £90 million, and will reduce flights, travel and carbon emissions through the increased use of video conferencing.

There were no contracts awarded under management consultancy.

Human Rights and Democracy Strategic Programme Fund

Chris Bryant: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) how much money was allocated to the Human Rights and Democracy Strategic Programme Fund in 2008; [15645]

(2) how much money his Department allocated to the Human Rights and Democracy Strategic Programme Fund in 2009. [15764]

Mr Jeremy Browne: In both 2008-09 and 2009-10, £6.1 million was originally allocated to the Human Rights and Democracy Strategic Programme Fund. These allocations were revised to £5.59 million in 2008-09, following an internal transfer to another Foreign and Commonwealth Office programme supporting human rights projects, and to £5.81 million in 2009-10 as a result of in year budget cuts.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 13 October 2010

JUSTICE

Criminal Justice System

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what research his Department has *(a)* undertaken and *(b)* evaluated on the treatment in the criminal justice system of people who are on the autistic spectrum. [16937]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice has not undertaken any specific research, or evaluated any specific treatment of people who are on the autistic spectrum in the criminal justice system. However, offenders are known to have a higher level of needs across a wide range of conditions than the general population, and recently, the department has undertaken a survey of offenders in custody, and started a survey of offenders in the community, each including a range of emotional and other wellbeing questions. A report on the survey of offenders in custody will be published as part of a Reoffending Statistics Compendium on 4 November 2010. We are committed to working closely with our partners in the Department of Health and other departments to make sure offenders have access to appropriate treatment.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* officials of his Department and *(b)* external advisers are working on his Department's review of legal aid. [16978]

Mr Djanogly: The Justice Secretary announced on 23 June 2010, *Official Report,* column 16-18WS, via written ministerial statement, that the Government are undertaking a policy assessment of legal aid in England and Wales.

Currently a team of 10 is working on the legal aid policy assessment, which has been formulated from existing resources from within the Ministry of Justice and from the Legal Services Commission. The team has been supported by other officials across the Ministry of Justice and the Legal Services Commission as part of their other duties.

No external advisers have been engaged to work on the policy assessment of legal aid, other than Counsel.

Legal Aid

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what changes he plans to make to the eligibility criteria for legal aid in the next 12 months. [17237]

Mr Djanogly: On 23 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 16-18WS, the Justice Secretary announced, via written ministerial statement, that the Government are undertaking a policy assessment of legal aid in England and Wales. The Government intends to seek views on proposals later this autumn.

Prisoner Transfer Agreement

Damian Collins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will place in the Library copies of documents held by his Department on the negotiation of the Prisoner Transfer Agreement with Libya which have not previously been released. [16949]

Mr Blunt: The Prime Minister asked the Cabinet Secretary on 20 July to review papers held by the Government to see if more needs to be published about the background to the release of Abdelbaset al-Megrahi to ensure the fullest possible explanation of the circumstances surrounding this decision. This includes papers related to the negotiation of the Prisoner Transfer Agreement. The review is ongoing and the Cabinet Secretary aims to conclude this work as soon as possible.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Computers

Chris Ruane: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the House of Commons Commission, how many *(a)* laptop and *(b)* desktop computers have been returned to PICT during its most recent refresh programme; and by what means such computers are to be (i) disposed of and (ii) re-used. [16582]

Sir Stuart Bell: As of 11 October 2010, the Members' Programme has collected 401 laptops and 1,811 desktop computers. Where there is re-sale value, this equipment will be sold in order to reduce overall costs to Parliament; otherwise it will be disposed of in an environmentally-friendly way. In both cases, all data and software will have been securely removed.

Times of Sittings

Mr Jenkin: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the House of Commons Commission, what estimate the House of Commons Commission has made of the additional cost to the House Service of *(a)* interruption to repairs, maintenance works and refurbishments and *(b)* other activities undertaken in connection with the sittings from 6 to 16 September 2010. [15531]

Sir Stuart Bell: An early decision was made to adapt the programme of repairs, maintenance works and refurbishments to take account of the shorter summer recess and the September sitting. It is therefore difficult to quantify accurately the additional cost to the House Service of the September sitting. It was determined that it would not be cost effective or realistic to stop work while the House resumed in September and then recommence work during the three weeks of the conference season, because of the requirement for double set up and removal costs, and because the working time would be too short for any meaningful work to be undertaken. The penalty has therefore been of deferred projects rather than increased costs.

The difference in other House Service costs between sitting and non-sitting days is small, as the major costs of accommodation and staffing are not appreciably affected.

WALES

Departmental Drinking Water

Nick de Bois: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much her Department has spent on bottled water in each year since 2008. [16870]

Mr David Jones: In 2008-09 the Wales Office spent £1,558 on bottled water for water coolers. In February 2009 water coolers connected to the mains water supply were installed, eliminating the need to buy bottled water. The Wales Office has not routinely bought smaller bottles of water in this period, and any spending would require disproportionate cost to identify.

Departmental Manpower

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many officials her Department has appointed on fixed-term contracts since 7 May 2010. [16800]

Mr David Jones: There have been no appointments on fixed-term contracts since that date.

Departmental Secondment

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many staff her Department has appointed on secondment since 7 May 2010; and from what organisation each such member of staff has been seconded. [16268]

Mr David Jones: No one has been seconded to the Wales Office since 7 May 2010.

S4C: Finance

Mr David: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales (1) what *(a)* timetable has been set and *(b)* arrangements have been made for future discussions with the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport on the future funding of S4C; [16298]

(2) whether she plans to meet the Welsh Language Society, Cymdeithas Yr Iaith Gymraeg, to discuss the future funding of S4C. [16299]

Mr David Jones: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has regular meetings with my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics Media and Sport on a range of issues including S4C and Welsh broadcasting. My right hon. Friend and I will continue to monitor this situation closely.

I will be meeting with members of Cymdeithas Yr Iaith Gymraeg shortly to discuss a range of issues, including the future funding of S4C.

Worship Grant Scheme

Mr David: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if she will discuss with the Chancellor of the Exchequer the continuation in Wales of the Listed Places of Worship Grant scheme. [15906]

Mr David Jones: No decision has yet been made on the future of the Listed Places of Worship Grant scheme.

As the scheme represents heritage spend, it would normally be a devolved matter. However, in this case, the devolved Administrations have assigned responsibility back to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) in the interests of a single UK-wide scheme.

SCOTLAND

Railways: Lanarkshire

Mr Frank Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland (1) whether he plans to meet cross-border rail companies to discuss rail services via Lanarkshire, [16373]

(2) when he next plans to meet the Scottish Executive to discuss cross-border rail services via Lanarkshire, [16374]

(3) what plans he has to discuss with the Secretary of State for Transport the matter of cross-border rail services via Lanarkshire. [16375]

Michael Moore: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 14 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 945W. I will continue to take an interest in cross-border rail services and, if the hon. Member wishes to make his own representations, I would be happy to receive them.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

British Film Institute

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether his Department monitors the number of British independent narrative feature films programmed by the British Film Institute at its festivals. [17470]

Mr Vaizey: The programming schedule at Film Festivals is a matter for the British Film Institute. The Department does not monitor the number of British narrative feature films at such events.

Football

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what plans he has to regulate the governance of the ownership of football clubs; what recent representations he has received on the role of supporters in the governance of such clubs; and if he will make a statement. [17229]

Hugh Robertson: My current priority for football is for England 2018 to win the football World cup bid.

It is for the football authorities to run our national game but the Government will continue to encourage The Football Association, Premier League, and Football League to work closely together to improve its governance and regulation. This includes exploring better ways to involve supporters in their local clubs.

I also continue to support the work of Supporters Direct and have been particularly encouraged by a number of unique supporter plans to secure their involvement in their club.

I look forward to seeing how these develop and will discuss the role of supporters again with the authorities in the near future to see what progress has been made.

Government Olympic Executive

Andrew Bingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many full-time equivalent staff have worked for the Government Olympic Executive in each of the last five years. [15620]

Hugh Robertson: The following table sets out the number of full-time equivalent staff who have worked for the Government Olympic Executive in each of the last five years.

Financial year	*Number of FTEs*
2005-06	30
2006-07	44.3
2007-08	62.3
2008-09	89.4
2009-10	92.9

Olympic Games 2012

Dr Thérèse Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport which of Team GB's sporting teams *(a)* have established and *(b)* plan to establish training camps for the London 2012 Olympics outside Greater London. [16904]

Hugh Robertson: The British Olympic Association will provide a pre-games holding camp at Loughborough university and the British Paralympic Association at Bath university. However a number of sports have plans to create their own bespoke holding camp solutions totalling two in greater London, 27 across the rest of the UK, e.g. Newport, and three overseas. A further 15 sports have yet to confirm their pre-games camp arrangements.

Olympic Games 2012: Contracts

Ian Swales: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many contracts related to the London 2012 Olympics have been awarded to businesses and organisations in *(a)* the South East, *(b)* the South West, *(c)* the East of England, *(d)* the East Midlands, *(e)* London, *(f)* Wales, *(g)* Scotland and *(h)* Northern Ireland; and what the monetary value of such contracts is. [17147]

Hugh Robertson: Information on businesses across the nations and regions that have won Olympic-related contracts directly supplying the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA), and in the supply chains of its contractors, is available in the business section of the London 2012 website under the heading ODA Suppliers, where you will be able to find suppliers listed by venue and sector:

www.london2012.com/business

As of the end of September 2010 the figures are:

	Region	*Number of contracts*	*Total contract value (£)*
(a)	South East	216	805,911,827
(b)	South West	59	9,300,562
(c)	East of England	133	719,818,580
(d)	East Midlands	43	271,818,960
(e)	London	718	2,877,177,277
(f)	Wales	10	588,663
(g)	Scotland	24	23,287,008
(h)	Northern Ireland	5	17,094,646

These figures only account for the contracts awarded by the ODA to its own top tier of contractors (tier one contractors). The figures do not include the values of contracts further down the supply chain, in tiers two, three and so on, which are awarded by the tier one contractors and not by the ODA. The ODA estimates that the total value of supply chain contracts to the regions runs into millions of pounds, but these are not public procurements and so the full value of contracts won across the UK is not captured by the figures provided. The ODA estimates that overall up to 50,000 contracts will be generated throughout its supply chains. The ODA is unable to release the value of individual contracts at this time as this is commercially sensitive information. These figures represent the committed spend to date, rather than the end contract value, as in many cases this will not yet be known.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Biodiversity: International Co-operation

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 5 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 59W, on biodiversity: international cooperation, when she plans to appoint a UK representative to the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. [16680]

Richard Benyon: The next step towards establishment of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services should be taken by the United Nations General Assembly during the current 65th Session. Appropriate UK representation will be decided once it is formally established.

Cattle Passports

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will review the charges for the issue of cattle passports. [16711]

Mr Paice: There is currently no charge for the issue of cattle passports, except when passports are lost or damaged, when a charge of £20 is levied for a replacement. The option to pass on the costs of cattle tracing to the industry has been considered in the past but not implemented; there are no plans to introduce a charge at the present time. A programme of work is under way to reduce the administration costs of cattle tracing, including passport issues.

Food: Imports

Karl McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to prevent the introduction of invasive non-native wheat. [16943]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA is not aware of plans to introduce invasive non-native wheat.

Karl McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to reduce the number of biohazards, with particular reference to the interception of food products at ports. [16944]

Mr Paice: Rules governing the importation of products of animal origin (POAO), including food products, are laid down in EU legislation. Imported food products must come from an approved establishment in an approved third country and be accompanied by appropriate animal and public health certification, which includes a guarantee that the products come from healthy animals. All consignments are checked on entry to ensure that they meet EU import conditions. These checks may include analysis for microbiological contaminants.

The UK Border Agency (UKBA) is responsible for anti-smuggling controls at the GB border on imports of POAO from outside the EU. All operational frontline UKBA staff are employed as multifunctional anti-smuggling staff with a responsibility to tackle a range of risks at the border, including illegal imports of POAO. Enforcement staff are deployed on a mobile and flexible basis and, at major ports and airports, are supported by the use of detector dogs specifically trained to detect POAO.

DEFRA and UKBA continue to work together to ensure that UKBA delivers a risk-based enforcement strategy that targets the entry routes that pose the greatest threat of introducing animal disease and responds flexibly to changing patterns in risk.

All smuggled POAO are treated as animal or public health risks and destroyed by incineration in the shortest possible time.

Imports of POAO from other EU member states are not checked at the frontier, but are subject to random checks at the point of destination.

Pigs: Tuberculosis

Karl McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether contingency plans are in place for circumstances in which there is an increase in the incidence of tuberculosis in pigs; and what her policy is on active surveillance of pigs for that disease. [16942]

Mr Paice: Pigs are susceptible to infection with bovine TB, but are considered incidental spillover hosts and unlikely to play any significant role in maintaining the epidemic in cattle and wildlife in the UK. However, Animal Health do receive reports of sporadic incidents of TB in pigs, often in high cattle TB incidence areas where infection has come from cattle or wildlife.

Surveillance for TB in pigs is based on routine post mortem meat inspection in abattoirs. In addition, TB in non-bovine species is a notifiable disease under the Tuberculosis (England) Order 2007. Under the order, carcases of pigs (and any other farmed animal or pet) with, or suspected of being affected with tuberculosis, are notifiable to Animal Health. When TB is suspected, Animal Health can impose movement restrictions on herds to reduce the risk of spread of infection out of the herd. We work with the herd owner to agree appropriate surveillance regimes for their particular enterprise aimed at lifting the restrictions at the earliest opportunity and in the most cost effective manner. Occasionally this can involve a test and slaughter (of TB test positive animals) approach, while at other times Animal Health vets rely on routine meat inspection information.

Supermarkets: Competition

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what work her Department is undertaking on *(a)* supermarket competition and *(b)* the relationship of supermarkets with local communities. [17225]

Mr Paice: We are working with colleagues in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills to establish the Groceries Code Adjudicator to monitor and enforce the Groceries Supply Code of Practice. Any local supplier or producer will be able to complain to the Adjudicator if they consider that they are directly or indirectly affected by retailer behaviour. The Government are currently considering the Competition Commission's recommendations to improve local competition between large grocery stores and will be responding to these later this year.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Housing

John Glen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many housing relocations of serving military personnel have taken place in the last 12 months; and at what cost. [16083]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence does not centrally hold the total number of military personnel relocated each year, or the cost of these relocations.

Armed Forces: Uniforms

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of his Department's contracts for military garments has been placed with suppliers based in the United Kingdom in the last two years. [17071]

Mr Gerald Howarth: The Defence Clothing Team, part of the Ministry of Defence's Defence Equipment and Support organisation, has placed 67 contracts for supply of military garments in the last 24 months. Some 58 of these have been placed with suppliers based in the

United Kingdom (87%). Contracts are let in accordance with European Union Procurement Directives and Regulations which set out the law on public procurement. The Department's relationship is with the prime contractor who may choose to subcontract some or all of the manufacturing work to suitable companies worldwide.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department's RWMIK vehicle platform has passed the NATO standardisation agreement (STANAG) 4569 Level 2A test. [16656]

Peter Luff: I regret that I must withhold the information as its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Departmental Contracts

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the monetary value is of contracts his Department has awarded to each *(a)* management consultancy and *(b)* IT company since 7 May 2010. [16189]

Peter Luff: The information requested is not held centrally and a full response could be produced only at disproportionate cost. However, we are able to provide information on external assistance contracted under enabling agreements and placed through the Central Top Level Budget Commercial (CTLBCom) branch, and on IT services placed through the Information and Communication Services (ICS) Catalogue for the period requested.

Management consultancy contracts placed under enabling agreements by CTLBCom since 7 May 2010

	£
PWC LLP	347,752
Dr. Mukulika Banerjee, London School of Economics	2,000
QinetiQ	17,662.50
Capita Symonds Ltd	15,000
Stephen Foot, Concerto Consulting	11,000

Note:
Historically the majority of MOD external assistance contracts have been placed by CTLBCom.

Orders placed against ICS catalogue since 7 May 2010

	£
Actica	1,612,203
Atkins	359,876
Detica	200,397
Parity	1,074,360
QI	15,900
QinetiQ	21,350
S-Com Group Ltd	897,271
SCS	694,499
Serco	513,106
Vega	2,381,675
Elan	323,412
LA International	4,553,920
Modis	164,064
Certes	113,000
Parity	98,420

Note:
These represent work undertaken via a single overarching call-off contract, under which the above companies can supply good and services.

Strategic Defence and Security Review

Robert Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for *(a)* Work and Pensions, *(b)* Communities and Local Government, *(c)* Business, Innovation and Skills and *(d)* the Home Department on his Department's strategic defence and security review; and what assessment he has made of the implications of those discussions for the outcomes of that review. [17143]

Dr Fox: I have had a number of discussions with my Cabinet colleagues on the strategic defence and security review. The Review is being led by the new National Security Council on which the Home Secretary sits and the Minister for Business, Innovation and Skills has attended a number of times.

These National Security Council discussions will ensure that SDSR decisions are taken forward in a co-ordinated, pan-Government way.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Electoral Register

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what account he took of levels of people who are registered to vote in more than one UK parliamentary constituency in developing proposals for a uniform electoral quota for constituencies. [15665]

Mr Harper: The Government's proposals treat people registered to vote in more than one constituency in the same way as existing legislation. It has been a longstanding feature of the electoral register that some people are legitimately registered in two places. Although in some circumstances a person may legitimately appear on two or more electoral registers, it is an offence, subject to a fine of up to £5,000, to vote more than once at an election for the same body. Therefore a person cannot vote twice in a UK General election or European Parliamentary election, but can do so in different local elections where they are validly registered.

The Government believe that the electoral register remains the best basis for defining parliamentary constituencies, since it is updated every year, and produced for electoral purposes.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many arrests there were in connection with underage drinking in Dartford constituency in each of the last five years. [17352]

James Brokenshire: Arrests data are collected centrally on notifiable offences only. Underage drinking is not a notifiable offence and information requested is therefore unavailable.

Asylum

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the system for allocating appointments for initial screening at the UK Border Agency Asylum Screening Unit in Croydon for those travelling from the North East; and whether alternative appointment times are made available for such people. [16933]

Damian Green: On 14 October 2009, the Asylum Screening Unit (ASU) in Croydon became the single, national site for anyone wishing to make an in-country application for asylum in the UK.

An appointment system was introduced to manage effectively the flow of people into Croydon ASU. This offers applicants both choice and certainty on the specific date and time of their interview and is particularly useful for those who may need to travel some distance and who want to plan their journey. In those cases, where possible, applicants will be offered appointment slots to fit with their travel plans. The appointment system is monitored on a daily basis and can be adjusted as the number of applicants changes.

We also remain committed to dealing with vulnerable and destitute people on the day and so, alongside the appointment system, the ASU has retained a walk-in facility for all such initial applications.

It is also recognised that there may be a small number of cases who, because of exceptional circumstances, are unable to travel to Croydon—this may include some unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. In these cases alternative arrangements will be made to ensure such applicants can be screened locally and their claim processed.

Asylum: Children

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which UK Border Agency offices provide child care when asylum seekers are being interviewed; and what plans she has for the future of that provision. [16932][1]

Damian Green: We are committed to ensuring that parents who are being interviewed about their reasons for seeking protection are not placed in the position of having to give an account of personal victimisation or humiliation in the presence of their children. In general, applicants are advised in their letter of invitation not to bring their children to the interview but to make alternative arrangements.

For some families, child care will be easier to arrange—in London, for example, the majority of asylum applicants are able to reside with family and friends and as a result have a wider support network for child care. We do recognise, however, that this will not be possible for all families.

At present, the only UK Border Agency building that provides child care facilities when a parent is being interviewed about their asylum claim is in the North West. Additionally, however, in the West Midlands, the UK Border Agency is currently in the final stages of discussions with the Children's Society and hope to be in a position to provide a supervised play facility for the dependents of interviewees by January 2011. If these facilities prove successful and cost effective, we will consider extending this approach to other offices.

Asylum: Females

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many female asylum seekers were detained in mixed sex facilities in the latest year for which figures are available. [16931]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency has three Immigration Removal Centres and two residential short-term holding facilities where women may be detained.

Yarl's Wood is the main centre for women. Single women are accommodated in one of three units; those who are part of a family group may be held on a separate unit, where they may mix with other families.

Tinsley House and Dungavel House Immigration Removal Centres and the residential holding facilities at Pennine House and Colnbrook, hold both men and women, although the facilities are designed to ensure they sleep separately. Dover Harbour closed in July 2010.

The following table shows the number of female asylum seekers entering detention held solely under Immigration Act powers, by place of initial detention in 2009, Q1 2010 and Q2 2010.

As at 30 June 2010, there were 190 female asylum seekers detained solely under Immigration Act powers.

Information on females detained solely under Immigration Act powers are available in the Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom, April-June 2010 in the Library of the House and the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Female asylum seekers entering detention[1, 2, 3] held solely under Immigration Act powers, by place of initial detention, (excluding Harwich), 2009—Q2 2010[4, 5]

			Number of persons
	Females entering detention		
Place of initial detention	*2009*	*Q1 2010*	*Q2 2010*
Yarl's Wood	1,505	435	305
Tinsley House	175	25	25
Dungavel	200	45	30
UK Border Agency short-term holding facilities			
Colnbrook short-term	65	20	20
Dover Harbour	470	10	15
Pennine House	210	30	35
Total	2,625	570	420

1.*[Official Report, 29 November 2010, Vol. 519, c. 7MC.]*

[1] Some detainees may be recorded more than once If, for example, the person has been detained on more than one separate occasion in the time period shown, such as a person who has left detention, but has subsequently been re-detained.

[2] Persons detained under Immigration Act powers who are recorded as having sought asylum at some stage. Figures may under record due to instances of detainees claiming asylum after the data extract date.

[3] Management information.

[4] Figures rounded to the nearest 5 and may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding. Figures exclude persons recorded as entering Harwich short-term holding facility, police cells and Prison Service establishments, those recorded as detained under both criminal and immigration powers and their dependants.

[5] Figures include dependants.

Borders: Personal Records

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she assessed the merits of changing the scope of the e-Borders contract in response to representations from Raytheon on the implications of EU legislation for the rollout of the e-Borders programme. [16988]

Damian Green: The decision to terminate the contract with Raytheon was taken after careful consideration of all the issues and on the basis of the supplier's performance not having been compliant with their contractual obligations.

Officials continue to engage in regular dialogue with the EU Commission on matters relating to the e-Borders programme, including the EU personal data protection Directive. This dialogue has informed the management and direction of the e-Borders programme.

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations her Department has considered on the legal basis for passenger data collection requirements under the e-Borders programme. [16989]

Damian Green: The enabling provisions in primary legislation were debated in Parliament and are set out in the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006. The legal basis for the scheme has been subject to parliamentary and public scrutiny. Representations were made by some carriers to the European Commission in April 2009 regarding e-Borders compatibility with EU law on Free Movement and Data Protection directives.

Officials continue to engage in regular dialogue with the EU Commission on matters relating to the e-Borders programme, including the EU Personal Data Protection Directive. This dialogue has informed the management and direction of the e-Borders programme.

Criminal Records Bureau

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the waiting times for Criminal Records Bureau checks were in each month of 2010 for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [16725]

Lynne Featherstone: The following table details the average time taken for the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) to process an enhanced disclosure and a standard disclosure in days, for each month in 2010, for which figures are available.

	Average turnaround (days)	
	Enhanced disclosure	*Standard disclosure*
2010		
January	30.86	8.45
February	28.85	7.39
March	28.19	8.75
April	29.31	9.77
May	28.31	7.97
June	26.93	5.65
July	25.62	5.38
August	28.72	5.57
September	26.78	4.97

Female Genital Mutilation

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer to the right hon. Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne) of 13 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1872W, on female genital mutilation: prosecutions, what the nature of the anecdotal evidence was which suggested that the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 was helping to prevent the practice; what progress in tackling this issue has been made since the appointment of the cross-Government co-ordinator; and if she will make a statement. [16677]

Lynne Featherstone: The 2003 Act is intended to deter the practice of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and we understand that in some cases social services departments have used the existence of the Act to warn parents—before they travelled with their daughters to countries where FGM is practised—that they could be prosecuted on their return if FGM were carried out abroad. Following this, the girls concerned have returned home intact.

Since the appointment of the cross-Government FGM co-ordinator, a number of initiatives have been implemented to improve the Government response to tackling FGM. These include:

Action plan for 2010 developed following consultation with non-governmental organisations (NGOs), statutory agencies and professionals who have expertise in working on FGM. Actions include:

Improving prevention of FGM by helping more people to understand what it is, the damaging consequences of it and where to access to help.

Ensuring statutory agencies and other professionals know how to recognise potential victims of FGM and how to help them.

Publicity campaign (March 2010) including a website:

www.fco.gov.uk/fgm

poster and leaflet, launched to raise awareness of FGM by helping people to understand the issue and its consequences as well as encouraging professionals and victims to seek support.

FGM Partner Forum to enable stakeholders to provide challenge, ideas, support and guidance on the work and the key issues relating to FGM.

Multi-Agency Practice Guidelines to assist practitioners handling cases of FGM. These guidelines are open for consultation at the website above. Following consideration of responses, we hope to publish these guidelines in spring 2011.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the provisions of the Female

Genital Mutilation Act 2003; and what steps her Department is taking to increase the proportion of people committing offences under that Act who are prosecuted. [16967]

Lynne Featherstone: There has been no formal assessment of the 2003 Act. Legislation alone cannot eliminate the practice so our resources are also aimed at raising awareness of the law and the health implications with communities and front-line practitioners.

The Act has provided an impetus for outreach work with the practising communities and it has been widely used to raise awareness among the police, judiciary, health professionals, social services departments and the education sector so that female genital mutilation (FGM) is treated with the seriousness that it deserves.

The Government appointed a cross-Government FGM co-ordinator in September 2009 and a number of initiatives have been implemented to improve the Government response to tackling FGM. Most recently, the Home Office, in partnership with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Department of Health and Department for Education, have developed draft multi-agency practice guidelines to assist practitioners handling cases of FGM. These guidelines are open for consultation at:

www.fco.gov.uk/fgm

Following consideration of responses, we hope to publish these guidelines in spring 2011.

Immigration Controls

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many organisations have been granted sponsorship status for *(a)* Tier 2 and *(b)* Tier 4 schemes since their inception. [14582]

Damian Green: The Tier 2 sponsor register opened on 28 February 2008. From 28 February 2008 to 8 September 2010, 18,078 Tier 2 licences have been granted.

The Tier 4 sponsor register opened on 28 July 2008. Between 28 July 2008 and 8 September 2010, 2,445 licences have been granted.

Both figures include organisations whose licences may have been suspended, revoked or withdrawn.

A full list of sponsors currently licensed can be found on the website at:

www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk

Immigration: Bulgaria

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has made an estimate of the likely effects on levels of immigration from Bulgaria of the extension by the government of Bulgaria of passport entitlement to Ukraine and Belarus citizens; and if she will make a statement. [16774]

Damian Green: No estimates have been made, but the UK Border Agency will continue to monitor closely any significant changes in numbers of individuals seeking permission to work in the UK under the work authorisation schemes in place for workers from Romania and Bulgaria, or those individuals applying for residence documentation.

Khat

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the use of khat in the UK; what estimate she has made of the monetary value of khat imported in the last 12 months; and what recent representations she has received on its legal status. [9765]

James Brokenshire: In line with the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs' (ACMD) statutory duty under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, I have written to the ACMD asking for it to review the available evidence relating to the harms of khat and provide advice in relation to both control under the 1971 Act and a wider response. The British Crime Survey report "Drug Misuse Declared 2009/10" for the first time includes estimates of the prevalence of khat use in the general population. Preliminary findings (based on six months data) show that 0.2% of adults reported using khat in the last year. The Home Office commissioned two studies in 2009 to explore the social harms associated with khat use. The main and substantive research study "Perceptions of the social harms associated with khat use" is available at:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk

The second report, due to be published in November, is a review of the national and international literature examining the evidence on the social harms associated with khat and the impact of legislation in countries which have legislated against khat use and supply. No estimate has been made by the Home Office of the monetary value of khat imported into the UK in the last 12 months. No recent representations have been made on the legal status of khat.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations she has received on the social effects of the use of khat. [10737]

James Brokenshire: In line with the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs' (ACMD) statutory duty under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, I have written to the ACMD asking for it to review the available evidence relating to the harms of khat and provide advice in relation to both control under Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and a wider response. No representations have been made on the effects of the use of khat.

Nationality

Mr Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applicants for nationality in categories requiring residency in the UK of five years were granted nationality following a period of permanent residency of fewer than five years in the most recent period for which figures are available; for what reasons the residency requirements were waived in such cases; and if she will make a statement. [17017]

Damian Green: Those avenues to British citizenship requiring five years residence (naturalisation under section 6(1) British Nationality Act (BNA) 1981 and registration under section 4(2) BNA 1981) include it as a mandatory requirement. The applicant must have been resident in the UK five years prior to applying. The answer is therefore, strictly, nil.

However, up to 450 days' absence from the UK is allowed during the five-year qualifying period and there is discretion available to overlook absences in excess of this level, within reason, in certain circumstances. The number of such cases could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual case records at disproportionate costs.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Biomass

Ian Swales: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will bring forward proposals to introduce a two-year grace period for biomass grandfathering; and if he will make a statement. [17146]

Charles Hendry: Biomass has an important role to play in increasing the amount of energy from renewable sources. The new arrangements announced in July to 'grandfather' support for bio-energy over 20 years under the renewables obligation already represent a major step forward in providing the reassurance and investor certainty required for bio-energy projects to access finance, and have been welcomed by industry.

We are now in the process of considering the levels of support that renewables projects will receive through the renewables obligation from April 2013 onwards, including whether it is appropriate to introduce a 'grace period' to extend the current support rates for plant such as biomass electricity plant with long build times. This analysis will take into account potential impacts on energy consumers' bills.

Carbon Emissions: Finance

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department has contributed to the 10:10 campaign to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. [17472]

Gregory Barker: The Department for Energy and Climate Change has not contributed financially to the 10:10 campaign.

Departmental Telephone Services

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate he has made of the annual cost to his Department of running an 0300 telephone number. [16848]

Gregory Barker: The Department uses a non-geographic number range starting 0300. This offers price certainty to callers, but does not add to the Department's telephony costs compared to the cost of an area-based number range.

Offshore Industry

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his policy is on the European Commission's proposal for a moratorium on offshore deepwater drilling activities. [17110]

Charles Hendry: While continuing to be vigilant in the light of the Macondo incident, we do not believe there is currently a case for a moratorium on deepwater drilling in the UK.

The UK regime is robust—following the Inquiry into the Piper Alpha disaster in 1998, a comprehensive offshore regulatory system was set up to ensure that the roles and responsibilities of all parties, including well operators, sub-contractors and regulators, are clear and well understood.

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions his Department has had with the Health and Safety Executive on the safety of offshore deepwater drilling activities in the North Sea. [17113]

Charles Hendry: Regulation of offshore drilling activities with regard to safety falls within the responsibilities of the Health and Safety Executive, but there is ongoing and regular contact between the Department and the HSE on their respective areas of responsibility.

There have been, and, as necessary, continue to be, discussions with regards to offshore deepwater drilling activities, and HSE and DECC also work together as active members of the Oil Spill Prevention and Response Advisory Group (OSPRAG) which provides a focal point for the sector's review of the industry's practices in the UK in the light of the Gulf of Mexico incident, and the conclusions of investigations relating to that incident.

World War II: Medals

Penny Mordaunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his most recent estimate is of the cost to the public purse of the Bevin Boy Badge Scheme. [16951]

Charles Hendry: Following the announcement of the Bevin Boys Veterans Badge on 20 June 2007, the Department let a contract for the production of 6,000 badges at a cost of £7,740 excluding VAT. Since the first badge was issued on 25 March 2008 we have awarded 4,872 badges. The MOD's Service Personnel and Veterans Agency (SPVA), administer the awarding of the badges on behalf of DECC but do not currently charge the Department for this service. A detailed cost breakdown for the administration of the scheme within DECC is not available. Oversight of the scheme and associated policy issues currently equates to less than 5% of one grade 7's time.

TRANSPORT

Bus Services

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his policy is on the further implementation of statutory quality contracts for bus services; and if he will make a statement. [17226]

Norman Baker: The coalition agreement made it clear that our focus will be on encouraging joint working between bus operators and local authorities. However, as the guidance related to quality contract schemes has been published in full, local transport authorities are perfectly entitled to consult residents on their plans to make use of the new regulations on bus quality contract schemes to improve local bus services for passengers as they see fit.

The Competition Commission is currently conducting an inquiry into the local bus market following a referral from the Office of Fair Trading in January this year and the new regulations are within scope of its investigations. The Government therefore intend to wait for the outcome of the inquiry into the local bus market before deciding on the future of the current bus regulatory framework.

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the relationship between different modes of bus services ownership and bus ridership numbers. [17227]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport has commissioned no research on this subject.

Driving Tests

Duncan Hames: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many driving tests have been conducted by each driving test centre in *(a)* Wiltshire, *(b)* Somerset and *(c)* Avon in each of the last three years. [16638]

Mike Penning: The numbers of driving tests by category of vehicles conducted at each driving test centre in *(a)* Wiltshire, *(b)* Somerset and *(c)* Avon in each of the last three years are shown in the following tables.

Tests conducted between 1 April 2007 and 31 March 2008

		Car	*Motorcycle*	*B+E*	*LGV*	*PCV*
Avon	Bristol (Brislington)	5,069	562	—	—	—
	Bristol (Southmead)	10,291	857	—	—	—
	Bristol (St George)	8,100	—	—	—	—
	Bristol LGV (closed 20 March 2008)	—	—	157	1,154	146
Somerset	Minehead	956	—	—	—	—
	Taunton	5,058	367	—	—	—
	Taunton LGV	—	—	214	902	91
	Weston-Super-Mare	5,366	408	—	—	—
	Yeovil	5,195	446	—	—	—
Wiltshire	Chippenham	5,696	499	—	—	—
	Salisbury	3,415	222	—	—	—
	Swindon	7,379	595	—	—	—
	Swindon LGV	—	—	88	675	94
	Trowbridge	4,816	293	—	—	—

Tests conducted between 1 April 2008 and 31 March 2009

		Car	*Motorcycle*	*B+E*	*LGV*	*PCV*
Avon	Bristol (Brislington)	5,340	508	—	—	—
	Bristol (Southmead)	9,937	626	—	—	—
	Bristol (St George) (closed 31 October 2008)	4,823	—	—	—	—
	Bristol MPTC (opened 28 September 2008)	2,551	961	60	472	25
Somerset	Minehead (closed 15 August 2008)	373	—	—	—	—
	Taunton	5,675	459	—	—	—
	Taunton LGV	6	—	293	900	99
	Weston-Super-Mare	5,218	475	—	—	—
	Yeovil	4,898	463	—	—	—
Wiltshire	Chippenham	7,273	661	—	—	—
	Salisbury	3,989	277	—	—	—
	Swindon	—	461	—	—	—
	Swindon LGV	—	—	89	600	109

Tests conducted between 1 April 2008 and 31 March 2009

		Car	*Motorcycle*	*B+E*	*LGV*	*PCV*
	Swindon MPTC (opened 29 September 2008)	618	340			
	Trowbridge (closed 29 August 2008)	2,306	202			

Tests conducted between 1 April 2009 and 31 March 2010

		Car	*Motorcycle (single test)*	*Motorcycle module 1*	*Motorcycle module 2*	*B+E*	*LGV*	*PCV*
Avon	Bristol (Brislington)	5,781						
	Bristol (Southmead)	9,402						
	Bristol MPTC	6,187	156	1302	798	122	759	82
Somerset	Taunton	5,595	36		183			
	Taunton LGV			169		275	324	76
	Weston-Super-Mare	5,136	34		134			
	Yeovil	4,716	35					
Wiltshire	Chippenham	7,325	60					
	Salisbury	3,831	25		92			
	Swindon LGV					100	434	68
	Swindon MPTC	7,429	74		564			

Driving: Sleep Apnoea

Steve McCabe: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his Department's policy is on making commercial drivers aware of the risks of obstructive sleep apnoea. [17158]

Mike Penning: The Department for Transport is committed to identifying opportunities to raise awareness of obstructive sleep apnoea. A number of initiatives are ongoing with commercial drivers including questioning them directly about it as part of their compulsory medicals and sending our "Tiredness Can Kill" leaflet to them and their employers.

Enhanced Rider Scheme

Mr Burley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people have completed his Department's Enhanced Rider Scheme; and what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of that scheme. [16851]

Mike Penning: Since Enhanced Rider Scheme (ERS) training started in 2007, the Driving Standards Agency (DSA) has received 868 returns from trainers about participants who have completed the scheme. The submission of these returns is voluntary so this figure is unlikely to fully reflect take up across the country.

DSA carries out quality assurance of ERS to ensure that the training delivered best meets the needs of the riders.

In April 2010, DSA launched an evaluation in partnership with local authorities in the South West, Warwickshire/West Mercia and the East of England to evaluate the scheme's effectiveness, in particular to see if it leads to lasting improvements in rider skills, attitudes and behaviour.

The results of the project are due in summer 2011.

Invalid Vehicles

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has made a recent assessment of the merits of regulating *(a)* the sale of and *(b)* training schemes for the use of mobility scooters. [16650]

Norman Baker: In 2010 the Department for Transport published a consultation on proposed changes to the laws governing powered mobility scooters and powered wheelchairs. The consultation sought views on a number of issues including whether mobility vehicle users should be required to undergo an assessment of their suitability to use a mobility vehicle and whether they should undertake compulsory training; and on how both of these elements could be organised and delivered.

We will study the results of the consultation and consider how they may inform future policy options. The aim of any decision will be to balance carefully the mobility needs of disabled people with the safety of other road users. A decision will be published in due course.

Railways: Repairs and Maintenance

Karl McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent representations Network Rail has received on controlling and reducing the *(a)* growth of ragweed and *(b)* number of rabbits near railway lines. [16945]

Mrs Villiers: These are operational matters for Network Rail as the owner and operator of the national rail network. My hon. Friend should contact Network Rail's chief executive at the following address for a response to his questions:

Iain Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
Kings Place
90 York Way
London, N1 9AG.

Severn Bridges: Tolls

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects the concession on the Severn bridges to expire and ownership of the bridges to be transferred to the Government. [17138]

Mike Penning: The concession period is limited to a maximum of 30 years. The actual end date will be achieved when the concessionaire has collected a fixed sum of money from tolls (£995,830,000 in 1989 prices). The concession is expected to end in the first half of 2017 (based on the six monthly forecast at the end of June 2010). After this time both crossings will be handed back to the Government.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has for the tolls system on the Severn bridges after the bridges pass into ownership of the Government; and if he will make a statement. [17139]

Mike Penning: No decisions have been made regarding the future of the Severn bridges once the concession ends in 2017.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has had recent discussions with the Welsh Assembly Government on the future of tolls on the Severn bridges; and if he will make a statement. [17140]

Mike Penning: The Secretary of State for Transport has met with the Deputy First Minister and Minister for Economy and Transport for Wales, where the Severn bridges were discussed. No decisions were made at the meeting regarding the future of Severn bridges, once the concession ends.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will undertake a consultation on the future of tolls on the Severn bridges in advance of the transfer of ownership of the bridges to the Government. [17141]

Mike Penning: No decisions have been made regarding the future of the Severn bridges once the concession ends in 2017. It is premature to consult on what happens after 2017.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent representations he has received on the ending of the Severn bridges tolls. [17142]

Mike Penning: The Department for Transport has received representations regarding the Severn bridges tolls once the concession ends from the Welsh Assembly Government. The Secretary of State has met with the Deputy First Minister for Wales, where the Severn bridges were discussed in brief. No decisions were made at the meeting regarding the future of Severn bridges, once the concession ends in 2017.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Affordable Housing: East of England

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will place in the Library a copy of the letter of 27 July 2010 from the Homes and Communities Agency to development directors of registered social landlords in the East of England, on allocations in respect of the National Affordable Housing programme for 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [16953]

Grant Shapps: A copy of the email sent from the HCA's East of England Director to Development Directors of Registered Social Landlords on 27 July 2010 has been placed in the Library of the House.

Coalfields

Angela Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) if he will review the classification of areas as former coalfields for the purposes of ensuring that available resources are appropriately allocated; [16647]

(2) what his policy is on the future funding of former coalfield areas; [16648]

(3) when he plans to publish his response to the Coalfields Regeneration Review; [16649]

(4) whether he plans to implement the recommendation of the Coalfields Regeneration Review that the coalfields sites programme managed by the Homes and Communities Agency be brought forward. [16657]

Andrew Stunell: A decision will be made on future funding for coalfield areas once the outcome of the spending review is known.

The Government intend to formally respond to the report in November. As part of the response we will consider the future of the Homes and Communities Agency National Coalfields sites programme, and the suggestion that the classification of coalfield areas should be reviewed. The response will be published on the Communities and Local Government website.

The review of Coalfields Regeneration report is available on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/regeneration/reviewcoalfieldsregeneration

Angela Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what account he plans to take of the principle of localism in his response to the recommendations of the Coalfields Regeneration Review. [17288]

Andrew Stunell: Government intend to formally respond to the report in November. We will consider the principle of localism as appropriate in responding to the recommendations. The response will be published on the Communities and Local Government website.

The review of Coalfields Regeneration report is available on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/regeneration/reviewcoalfieldsregeneration

Debts: Disadvantaged

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent representations he has received on the effects of debt on people in deprived areas. [16985]

Andrew Stunell: We have received a wide range of representations on the effects of debt on people in deprived areas from a number of bodies, including Shelter, Citizens Advice and the Council of Mortgage Lenders.

Government Office for the North East: Redcar

Ian Swales: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of the budget of the Government Office for the North East was allocated to the promotion of enterprise in *(a)* Redcar constituency and *(b)* the North East in each of the last five years. [16541]

Greg Clark: Government offices did not hold specific budgets for the promotion of enterprise.

Housing: Energy

John Woodcock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the average cost per home of improving its energy efficiency rating from F or G to E or above. [16983]

Andrew Stunell: The Secretary of State has made no estimate of the average cost per home of improving its energy efficiency rating from F or G to E or above.

The Energy Saving Trust has estimated that, of the total number of F and G properties in 2005, 37% can be improved to an E rating through basic insulation measures at a cost of £1,000 or less and 47% through installation of a modern condensing boiler at a cost of £3,000 or less. Some 15% of F and G rated homes, characterised as 'hard to make decent', will cost from £5,000 to £9,500 to improve to an E rating, leaving a small percentage (1.5%) costing up to £5,000 to upgrade.

Housing: Regulation

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans his Department has for the regulation of the housing sector following the ending of the Homes and Communities Agency. [17156]

Grant Shapps: The Homes and Communities Agency is not responsible for housing regulation. The Tenant Services Authority (TSA) is responsible for regulating social housing. The Government have been reviewing the role and purpose of TSA and the framework for social housing regulation. The outcomes of that review will be announced shortly.

Playing Fields: Sales

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of square hectares of land sold off by the National Playing Fields Association in each of the last five years. [16954]

Robert Neill: The information sought relating to the area of land sold off by the National Playing Fields Association is not collected centrally and no estimate has been made.

Private Rented Housing: Energy

John Woodcock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of homes in the private rented sector with an energy efficiency rating of F or G; and if he will make a statement. [16982]

Andrew Stunell: Since September 2008, 1,270,000 energy performance certificates have been lodged, for private rented sector properties, of which 108,000 have been F or G rated.

The English Housing Survey (2008-09) estimates that almost 680,000 (20%) of privately rented homes can be categorised as having an energy efficiency rating of F or G. Across the whole English housing stock there are estimated to be about 3.8 million F or G rated homes and most of these are owner occupied.

TREASURY

Bank Services

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of trends in the number of bank branches on high streets in the last 10 years; what discussions he has had with representatives of banks of the subject; and if he will make a statement. [16020]

Mr Hoban: Treasury Ministers and officials meet with a wide range of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the usual policymaking process. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

Banks: Finance

Mr Meacher: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost to the public purse has been of recapitalising banks in each year since 2007, expressed *(a)* in current prices and *(b)* as a proportion of gross domestic product; and what estimate he has made of the equivalent figures in each of the next five years. [16962]

Mr Hoban: Full breakdowns of financial support provided to UK banks are published by HM Treasury on a financial year basis. Details of the support provided for the years 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 are set out in the Treasury's resource accounts for 2007-08 (HC 539) and 2008-09 (HC 611) and 2009-10 (HC261), respectively. For ease of reference I set out as follows total recapitalisations by year and institution.

	2007-08		*2008-09*		*2009-2010*		*2010*	
Institution	*£ billion*	*Percentage GDP*[1]	*£ billion*	*Percentage GDP*	*£ billion*	*Percentage GDP*	*£ billion*	*Percentage GDP*
RBS	0	0	15	1.1	30.8	2.1	0	0.0
Lloyds	0	0	4.5	0.3	7.6	0.5	0	0.0
HBOS	0	0	8.5	0.6	0	0.0	0	0.0
Northern Rock plc	0	0	0	0.0	1.4	0.1	0	0.0
	0	0	27.9	2.0	39.8	2.8	0	0

[1] GDP in money terms for year stated. Where year not stated 2009-10 GDP has been applied.

The Government published an updated estimate of the net direct cost of all financial sector interventions made by the previous Government in the June 2010 Budget. Using the latest market prices at the time, the cost of the financial sector interventions, net of fees and other income, is estimated at £2 billion. This estimate is based on:

Recapitalisation: The then prevailing market value of the Government's shareholdings in Lloyds and RBS which implied a cost of £7 billion on these investments net of the value of the Dividend Access Share in RBS and fees received during the recapitalisation and for the provision of contingent capital;

Asset Protection Scheme: the Asset Protection Agency's central expectation that there will be a net benefit to the taxpayer of at least £5 billion from the Asset Protection Scheme; and

Other: the expectation that the aggregate costs of all other interventions will not be material after fees, other income and recoveries are taken into account.

Defence Equipment: Sales

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the savings in expenditure from disposing of surplus and second-hand government equipment through a service based on the Ministry of Defence's eDisposals service in each of the next five years. [16693]

Danny Alexander: The Disposal Services Agency (DSA) has delegated authority to dispose of all of Ministry of Defence surplus equipment in the UK and overseas. Until the Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) has concluded the Government are unable to make an estimate of the volume or type of equipment that the DSA will be asked to dispose of. As part of the SDSR the Government are considering whether the DSA itself should be sold or its functions outsourced in order to secure better value for money for the taxpayer.

Departmental Contracts

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what contracts his Department has awarded to voluntary sector organisations in the last two years; and what the monetary value was of each such contract. [17251]

Mr Gauke: HM Treasury records show that the Department has awarded seven contracts to voluntary sector organisations in the past two years, at the following monetary values: £98,000, £43,000, £33,000, £15,000, £4,000, £3,000 and £1,000 (excluding VAT).

Spending Challenge Website

Mr Love: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many of the suggestions submitted to the Spending Challenge website were passed on by the cross-Government team for *(a)* further consideration and *(b)* development into policy proposals. [15925]

Danny Alexander: Over 100,000 suggestions were submitted to the Spending Challenge website, including 63,000 from public sector workers. Every single public sector idea was reviewed to ensure it was compliant with the Spending Challenge exercise, so contained a clear idea about how to save money and was of acceptable language. All 34,000 compliant ideas have been sent to the relevant Department for further consideration, with the joint Treasury and Cabinet Office team working with Departments to develop the most promising as policy proposals.

Members of the public were themselves invited to review and rate the 48,000 ideas submitted by the public. The Government are currently in the process of reviewing which ideas have the most potential and will be sending those through to Departments to be developed further.

On 10 September, the Government announced that three ideas submitted to the Spending Challenge by members of the public and public sector workers will be implemented as policy by the Government. These ideas are (a) to reduce the number of CRB checks for junior doctors, by taking a more common-sense approach across the NHS, so that junior doctors are not checked repeatedly over a short space of time; (b) to distribute national insurance numbers to people with a letter rather than a plastic card; and (c) to increase the selling of surplus and second hand Government equipment by expanding the use of the Ministry of Defence's eDisposals service for use across all Government Departments.

The Government will continue to highlight where ideas submitted by the public have been taken into account when the results of the spending review are announced on 20 October.

Mr Love: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many ideas submitted to the Spending Challenge website have been considered by Ministers. [15926]

Danny Alexander: Over 100,000 suggestions were submitted to the Spending Challenge website, including 63,000 from public sector workers. Every single public sector idea was reviewed by a cross-Government team. Members of the public were themselves invited to review and rate the 48,000 ideas submitted by the public. The Government are currently in the process of reviewing which ideas have the most potential.

Ministers will continue to review ideas as they are considered for policy announcements. The Government will highlight where ideas submitted by the public have been taken into account when the results of the spending review are announced on 20 October.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* officials and *(b)* external advisers are working on the Government's spending review. [16561]

Danny Alexander: A substantial number of people are currently working on the spending review across the civil service, but detailed information about numbers is not held centrally.

Equitable Life Ex-gratia Payment Scheme Review

Tessa Munt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment his Department has made of the factual accuracy of each section of the Chadwick report on Equitable Life; and if he will make a statement. [16023]

Mr Hoban: The Government have announced that they will carefully consider Sir John's report and has invited representations from interested parties. This process is ongoing. A response to Sir John Chadwick's advice and the funding available for the scheme will be set out at the spending review on 20 October.

Income Tax: Tax Allowances

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will assess the merits of introducing a deaf person's income tax allowance similar to the blind person's income tax allowance. [16991]

Mr Gauke: The Government keep all aspects of the tax system under review.

Personal Income

Mr Meacher: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has made a recent estimate of the *(a)* number and *(b)* average income of people in the top (i) 10, (ii) five, (iii) one, (iv) 0.1 and (v) 0.01 per cent. of taxpayers by income. [16973]

Mr Gauke: Information on taxpayers by income for 2010-11 can be found in the following table:

Total income group	*Number of taxpayers (thousand)*	*Average income (£)*
(i) Top 10%	3,050	100,000
(ii) Top 5%	1,530	144,000
(iii) Top 1%	305	356,000
(iv) Top 0.1%	31	1,370,000
(v) Top 0.01%	3	5,130,000

Estimates are based upon the 2007-08 Survey of Personal Incomes and are uprated to 2010-11 using June 2010 Budget economic assumptions. Estimates are subject to increasing statistical margins of error as group size declines.

Pregnant Women: Grants

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in *(a)* Sunderland, *(b)* Tyne and Wear and *(c)* the North East Strategic Health Authority area have received the health in pregnancy grant since its introduction. [15822]

Mr Gauke: This analysis has not been undertaken and is available only at disproportionate cost.

Public Expenditure

Andrew George: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will take steps to *(a)* identify and *(b)* publish the potential impacts on (i) equality of outcomes, (ii) equality of assets and (iii) equality of access to services of measures relating to its expenditure under consideration in the Spending Review; [16364]

(2) if his Department will take steps to assess the impacts on *(a)* equality of outcomes, *(b)* equality of assets and *(c)* equality of access to services of measures relating to its expenditure under consideration in the Spending Review. [16363]

Mr Gauke: HM Treasury will ensure the relevant equality considerations are taken into account in the context of its expenditure under consideration in the Spending Review, in compliance with its obligations under the Sex Discrimination Act 1975, the Race Relations Act 1976, and the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.

Public Expenditure: Bolton

Mr Crausby: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much has been spent from the public purse per head of population in Bolton in each year since 2005. [16118]

Danny Alexander: We do not gather information at a constituency, city or town level. The annual Country and Regional Analysis exercise identifies expenditure per head by nine regions in England. We can provide data for the north-west region.

Total identifiable expenditure per head for the north-west is published in Public Expenditure Statistical Analysis (PESA) 2010, chapter 9, Table 9.2 at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/pespub_country_regional_analysis.htm

Public Expenditure: Wales

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether there are Barnett consequentials for Wales of the Regional Growth Fund announced on 29 June 2010. [15850]

Danny Alexander: Funding for the Regional Growth Fund will be determined in the spending review. The Barnett formula will be applied in the spending review in the normal way.

Public Sector: Pensions

Annette Brooke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what advice he has received on the contractual rights of public service pensioners to have their pensions up-rated annually in line with increases in the retail prices index. [15039]

Danny Alexander *[holding answer 13 September 2010]*: The emergency Budget announced that from April 2011 the indexation of benefits, tax credits and the state second pension will be based on the consumer prices index (CPI) instead of the retail prices index (RPI). This change will also apply to public service pensions through the statutory link to the indexation of the additional pensions, in long-term benefits (including the state second pension).

The change in future uprating of public service pensions to CPI applies to new pensions coming into payment, pensions currently in payment and to future uprating of deferred pension rights. The change in indexation is forward looking, so future increases in the value of deferred pensions, or pensions in payment will be based on the CPI while past upratings of public service pensions in line with RPI will not be affected.

Public service pensions will continue to be index linked and continue to protect individual pensions against increases in the cost of living.

Public Service Pensions Commission

Mr Betts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what definition of accrued rights will be used in the review of public sector pensions; and if he will make a statement. [7903]

Danny Alexander *[holding answer 13 July 2010]*: It will be for the Independent Public Service Pensions Commission to take a view on the precise definition of accrued rights that it uses when making its recommendations in due course.

Tax Collection

Lorely Burt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what proportion of the individuals and other taxpayers identified in the HM Revenue and Customs Annual Report for 2009-10 as not willing or able to pay tax are those *(a)* willing but not able to pay, *(b)* able but not willing to pay and *(c)* are neither willing nor able to pay; [16120]

(2) what definition of a willing and able taxpayer HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) uses in the context of its Departmental Strategic Objective 1; and what methods HMRC uses to calculate the number of willing and able taxpayers in the UK. [16121]

Mr Gauke: The definition of 'willing and able' customers is based on the Individuals Prioritisation Project (Individuals Segmentation). This was a research project run in 2007-08 to understand the attitudes and likely behaviours towards HMRC and compliance of the adult UK population covering both tax and benefits administered by HMRC. The methodology used to calculate the number of 'willing and able' customers is outlined in the Individuals Prioritisation Project, available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/research/index.htm

The breakdown by segment requested is not currently published; however, the Individuals Prioritisation Project produced a set of 'key discriminating questions' which are used to track the segmentation in an ongoing survey. Sampling for the survey is representative of the UK adult population (over 16s). HMRC plan to publish the survey results later in the autumn.

Tax Increment Financing

Mr Wallace: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has for the future of tax increment financing schemes for major developments. [16398]

Mr Gauke: On 20 September the Deputy Prime Minister announced that the Government will introduce tax increment financing powers for local authorities in England as a means of supporting investment in key local infrastructure and unlocking higher levels of economic growth. The Government will set out more on the framework within which Tax Increment Financing powers will operate through its forthcoming White Paper on sub-national growth after the spending review.

Taxation: Holiday Accommodation

Mr Weir: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the proportion of recipients of furnished holiday lettings relief who were female in the latest period for which figures are available; [16211]

(2) how many recipients of furnished holiday lettings relief in *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* England and *(c)* Wales claimed in respect of achieved lettings of between 71 and 105 days in each of the last five years; [16212]

(3) how many properties in respect of which claims for furnished holiday lettings relief is granted offering *(a)* more than 10 beds and *(b)* fewer than four beds made claims in respect of achieved lettings of between 71 and 105 days in each of the last five years; [16213]

(4) how many recipients of furnished holiday lettings relief in each local authority area made claims in respect of achieved lettings of between 71 and 105 days in each of the last five years; [16214]

(5) what discussions he has had with *(a)* VisitScotland and *(b)* the Scottish Executive on the likely effect of the increase in the qualifying thresholds on achieved lettings for furnished holiday lettings relief on currently eligible properties in Scotland; [16215]

(6) if he will consider the merits of incorporating into his proposals for furnished holiday lettings relief contingency plans to permit variation and relaxation of the proposed eligibility thresholds to take account of the effect of prolonged periods of extreme adverse weather on the ability of such businesses to continue trading. [16216]

Mr Gauke: For the tax year 2008-09, HMRC estimate that 50% of individuals reporting income from furnished holiday lettings (FHL) were female. Of those individuals offsetting furnished holiday lettings losses against other income, HMRC estimate that 44% were female.

HM Revenue and Customs does not capture information on the period for which FHL properties are let.

Government Ministers and officials have discussions and meetings with a wide variety of organisations as part of the process of policy development and delivery. It is not the Government's practice to provide details of all representations made or meetings held.

FHL is currently the subject of a formal consultation in which a question of the impact of the extension on the eligibility thresholds on different regions of the UK is included. Responses to the consultation will be reviewed carefully, including any suggestions made concerning adverse weather relief contingency plans.

Taxation: Rebates

Stephen Timms: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer under what circumstances in a tax calculation exercise where a taxpayer is assessed as having a higher tax liability because their employer made an error the additional tax liability will be charged to the employer. [14632]

Mr Gauke: The vast majority of employers and pension payers operate PAYE correctly and pay the tax deducted over to HMRC in full and on time.

Underpayments of tax through PAYE may arise for a wide range of reasons, including on occasion through employer error.

Any individual who believes PAYE has been operated incorrectly by their employer or pension provider should contact HMRC, who will investigate accordingly.

VAT: Crown Dependencies

Mr Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the level of *(a)* fraudulent claims and *(b)* other abuse of low value consignment relief in respect of imports from Crown dependencies; and what steps HM Revenue and Customs has taken to (i) detect and (ii) reduce such abuse in the last two years. [15881]

Mr Gauke: No estimate of the level of fraudulent claims has been made due to the difficulty of establishing the facts. This is because case law in this area as to what amounts to an abusive practice is unclear.

The United Kingdom Border Agency apply risk-based controls to detect and take action against inaccurate claims to, or abuse of, the import VAT relief and, as I told the House in my written answer to a question from my hon. Friend the Member for Bromsgrove (Sajid Javid), on 13 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 661W, the Government are actively reviewing the operation of low value consignment relief.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to respond to questions *(a)* 11575, tabled on 22 July 2010 and *(b)* 12560, tabled on 27 July 2010, on the 2010 Budget; what the reason is for the time taken to reply; and what guidance his Department issues on the period within which replies should be provided to questions for ordinary written answers. [16976]

Mr Gauke: I apologise for the delay in replying to the hon. Member and will arrange for replies to be provided very soon.

CABINET OFFICE

Death: Heart Diseases

Bob Russell: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the estimated cost to the economy is of the premature death of a 55-year-old from a heart attack. [15247]

Danny Alexander: I have been asked to reply.

No such estimate has been made.

Insolvency

John Stevenson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many newly-started businesses failed in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Carlisle constituency in each year since 2008. [15431]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated September 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many newly-started businesses failed in (a) the UK and (b) Carlisle constituency in each year since 2008. [15431]

ONS does not produce information on the number of newly-started businesses that failed in a particular year. However, annual statistics on the number of enterprise births surviving into a particular year are available from the ONS release on Business Demography at:

www.statistics.gov.uk

The table below contains the latest statistics available, which show enterprise births in 2006 and 2007 and the number surviving into 2008, for Carlisle and the UK.

Enterprises births in 2006 and 2007 and the number surviving into 2008 for Carlisle and the UK

	2006		2007	
	Births	Number surviving into 2008	Births	Number surviving into 2008
Carlisle	280	230	290	285
UK	255,530	206,160	280,725	267,985

National Income: Carlisle

John Stevenson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what proportion of the gross domestic product of Carlisle constituency is attributable to the activity of *(a)* the public sector and *(b)* the private sector. [15430]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 15 September 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning the proportion of gross domestic product (GDP) within Carlisle constituency which can be attributed to the public and private sectors (15430).

I fear that such estimates are not available. The Office for National Statistics does publish estimates of regional Gross Value Added. These are available at NUTS3 level within the EU geographical Nomenclature, for example for East Cumbria. Estimates are available broken down by industry but not between public and private sectors. These are available at

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_economy/NUTS3.xls

National Income: Cumbria

John Stevenson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent estimate has been made of the gross domestic product of *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Carlisle constituency. [15432]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 15 September 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning the most recent estimate of gross domestic product for both Cumbria and Carlisle constituency (15432).

The Office for National Statistics publishes Gross Value Added (GVA) rather than GDP for regions. GVA is measured at current basic prices, which is GDP less taxes on products, plus subsidies on products. The data are produced at three geographical levels using a European classification system called NUTS (Nomenclature of Units for Territorial Statistics). GVA by NUTS2 regions (groups of counties and local authorities) and NUTS3 regions (individual counties and unitary authorities) are available for the period 1995-2007.

The most recent total GVA estimates for the Cumbria NUTS2 and East Cumbria NUTS3 areas, within which Carlisle constituency falls, are shown in the table below. I fear that estimates relating to Carlisle constituency specifically are not available.

Total gross value added

2007	*£ million*
NUTS2 Cumbria East	7,379
NUTS3 Cumbria	4,261

Source:
Table 3.1, Regional GVA, ONS, available on the National Statistics website at:
http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_economy/NUTS3.xls

EDUCATION

Children: Computers

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many households in Washington and Sunderland West constituency *(a)* applied for and *(b)* received vouchers under the Home Access scheme in the latest period for which figures are available. [14561]

Mr Gibb: The Home Access programme provides computers and broadband internet access to low income households. The number of households at 7 September 2010 who have *(a)* applied for the programme in Sunderland is 1,975, with 133 being rejected as ineligible, and 147 being returned to the applicant with a request for further information. The number *(b)* receiving payment awards is 1,687. The programme is based on local authority areas, so the figures are provided by the Sunderland local authority area as a whole, as the data are not available by parliamentary constituency.

Departmental Public Consultation

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what steps he is taking to increase the involvement of young members of the public in the making of decisions that affect them taken by *(a)* Ministers in his Department, *(b)* officials in his Department and *(c)* public bodies which fall within his Department's area of responsibility; [12267]

(2) what mechanisms are in place to take into account the views of young people in his Department's *(a)* policy and *(b)* funding decisions. [16033]

Tim Loughton: The Department is committed to enabling young people to have better opportunities to engage in decision making at national level and in their communities. Ministers and officials actively engage with children and young people on emerging policies that affect them through the Office of the Children's Commissioner and the Department's Children and Youth Board and through our stakeholders in the children and youth sectors. For example, I am in regular contact with members of the UK Youth Parliament through their regional meetings and I will be attending their second debate in the House of Commons on 29 October.

I am particularly keen to ensure that we listen to the views of the most vulnerable children and recently met a group of care leavers to discuss how we could improve the support we give to young people leaving the care system. In the future I have asked the Children's Rights Director to set up quarterly meetings with groups of looked after children and care leavers, so that I can have an ongoing dialogue with them and take their views into account when making decisions about how to improve the outcomes of children in care.

We are currently developing our proposals for the future of youth services and on new approaches to giving young people a voice and strengthening youth scrutiny over national and local policy. I have taken action to ensure that young people are integral to the wider consultation process through a range of events, including one I hosted at the Department, organised in partnership with the National Children's Bureau, with around 20 teenagers from different parts of the country.

Officials from my Department, with colleagues from Communities and Local Government (CLG), are working to assess the impact of current approaches to youth empowerment and democratic engagement and are drawing on the mechanisms and experience of youth organisations to involve young people directly in this work. This will also help to inform decisions about priorities for future funding.

Both Departments (Department for Education and CLG) are also working with the Office for Civil Society to support the National Citizen Service (NCS) programme. Young people were involved in the work that led to the creation of NCS, and their direct contribution to its continuing development is an essential part of future plans for the programme.

Free School Meals

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on the continuation of the School Lunch Grant beyond March 2011. [14560]

Sarah Teather: We shall take a view on the future of the School Lunch Grant in the context of the Government's spending review, the outcome of which will be announced on 20 October 2010.

School Meals: Finance

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on the future of the School Food Trust. [14564]

Sarah Teather: The future role and responsibilities of the SFT are being considered in line with principles agreed across Government, along with all other arm's length bodies.

HEALTH

Departmental Empty Property

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the estimated monetary value is of each vacant *(a)* building and *(b)* parcel of land owned by his Department in each region. [16248]

Mr Simon Burns: The current book value of the vacant freehold buildings and parcels of land in each region owned by the Department is set out in the following table. Also included are vacant leasehold properties but no market value has been required to be assessed for these properties. There is an active disposal strategy for the properties.

Region	*Address*	*Asset value (£000)*
London	St James' Court SW12	1,900
	Land at Elm Field Way, W9	2,900
	Part, 125 High Street, Croydon	[1]—
	Part 109-113 Cranbrook Road, Ilford	[1]—
	Part River House, Maidstone Road, Sidcup	[1]—
South East	Land at Joyce Green, Dartford	850
	Land at Almond Villa, Woking	480
	Land at Michigan Way, Totton	500
	Land at Warneford Meadow, Oxford	500
	Land at Princes Road, Redhill	490
	Land at Hellingley	550
	Part Overline House, Blechynden Terrace, Southampton	[1]—
	Part Unit 4630, Oxford Business Park, Oxford	[1]—
	Unit D, Hermitage Court, Hermitage Way, Maidstone	[1]—
South West	Land at Alderney Hospital, Poole	420
	Part Unit Dl, Linhay Business Park, Ashburton	[1]—
	Former Christchurch Health Centre, Christchurch	[1]—
	Part Riverside House, Welshback, Bristol	[1]—
	Part Riverside Chambers, Taunton	[1]—
Eastern	Land at former Napsbury Hospital, Napsbury	75
	Part Little Plumstead Hospital, Norwich	2,575
	Primrose Lane, Huntingdon	585
	Land at Harps Close, Sudbury	1,100
	Part Harperbury Hospital, Radlett	17,250
	Part Cavell House, Caulston Road, Norwich	[1]—
	34-36 St Botolph's Street, Colchester	[1]—
	1 Canberra House, London Road, St Albans	[1]—
East Midlands	Land at Memorial Avenue, Worksop	190
	Buildings at Leicester Frith, Leicester	75
	Warwick Cottage, Melton Mowbray	75
	Part Maid Marian House, Maid Marian Way, Nottingham	[1]—
	Unit A, The Point, Lincoln	[1]—
	Unit B Edgeley House, Riverside Business Park, Nottingham	[1]—
	5 Smith Way, Grove Park, South Enderby	[1]—
West Midlands	Land at Princess Royal Hospital, Telford	200
	Land at St Editha's, Tamworth	5
	Land at Haygate Road, Wellington	85
	Land at Bucknall Hospital, Bucknall	75
	Part Chapter House South, Abbey Lawn, Shrewsbury	[1]—
	Part Coventry Point, Market Way, Coventry	[1]—
	The Coach House, Perdiswell Park, Worcester	[1]—
North West	80 Lightfoot Street, Chester	1,000
	Lakeland College, Lancaster	900
	Part 10 Duke Street, Liverpool	[1]—
	Part West Point, Chester Road, Manchester	[1]—
	Unit C, Gadbrook Business Park, Northwich	[1]—
Yorks and Humber	Land at Rooley Avenue, Bradford	2,750
	Land at Storthes Hall, Kirkburton	187
	Land at Darklands Road, Swadlincote	10
	Land at Bridlington Road, Driffield	20
	Land at Broadgates, Beverley	15
	Part Barclay Court, Heavens Walk, Doncaster	[1]—
	Aire House, Town Street, Rodley	[1]—

Region	*Address*	*Asset value (£000)*
North East	Part Northumbria House, Manor Walks, Cramlington	[1]
	Part Advance House, Teesdale Business Park, Thornaby	[1]

[1] Not assessed

Eyes: Testing

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he made an estimate of the number of *(a)* men and *(b)* women who received a free NHS eye test in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10. [17120]

Mr Simon Burns: The General Ophthalmic Services Activity Statistics for England and Wales, published by the Information Centre for health and social care, showed that in England there were 11.278 million national health service funded sight tests in 2008-09 and 11.812 million NHS funded sight tests in 2009-10. The data published by the NHS Information Centre provide a breakdown of these figures by eligible groups only.

The data do not allow us to estimate how many of these NHS sight tests were provided to men or women.

General Practitioners: Fees and Charges

Mr Lilley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on how many occasions a general practitioner has been found to have charged a patient for medical services which should have been provided free of charge in the last three years. [16557]

Mr Simon Burns: This information is not held centrally. Under the terms of their national health service contract with the local primary care trust, general practitioners (GPs) are prevented from charging their patients a fee for treatment under the contract, or otherwise, except in certain prescribed circumstances. Where a patient is unhappy about a charge being made for any treatment or service provided by their GP, they may raise it through the NHS complaints procedure.

Health: Disadvantaged

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received on the health effects of debt on people in low income groups. [16986]

Anne Milton: We will be publishing a white paper on public health towards the end of the year and will consult on proposals. We recognise the impact of wider determinants on health such as wider economic circumstances and are working closely across government as we develop the public health white paper.

Mental Health Services

Barbara Keeley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much funding his Department allocated to primary care trusts for the provision of psychological therapies to adults, excluding money allocated through the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies programme, in each year since 2006-07; [17144]

(2) how many primary care patients were referred to psychological therapies, excluding those provided through the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies programme, in each year since 2006-07. [17145]

Paul Burstow: The number of patients referred for psychological therapies is not collected centrally. Patients receive psychological therapy in a variety of settings and the only record in many cases will be in patients' medical notes at their general practitioner surgery.

With regard to the level of funding for psychological therapies, primary care trusts decide how to spend their baseline allocation in accordance with the needs of their local populations.

The annual spend on the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies programme is shown in the following table.

Financial period	*Spend (£ million)*
2006-07	3
2007-08	3
2008-09	33
2009-10	103
2010-11	173
Total	315

NHS: Internet

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make provision for those with no access to the internet at home to gain access to the interactive NHS Choices website. [16917]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department, through NHS Choices, is committed to reaching those who do not have access to the internet in their homes, particularly those people who are both socially and digitally excluded. NHS Choices already has a number of partnerships and runs initiatives with those involved in digital inclusion, including the network of public libraries, UKonline centres and Race Online 2012.

NHS Choices operates an intermediary engagement and training programme with library staff and other front line workers to reach older groups, families on lower incomes and unemployed people.

The features of the site are available in other channels: there is a new mobile channel to complement a range of existing SMS 'text message' services including 'Find My Nearest' health service.

NHS: Private Finance Initiative

Dr Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what arrangements will be made for private finance initiative contracts held by primary care trusts which are abolished. [17032]

Mr Simon Burns: The policy on the transfer of all the rights and liabilities of primary care trusts to successor bodies, including Private Finance Initiative and other service contracts, is being developed as part of the Health Bill.

The Bill will be introduced into Parliament later this year, and will include greater detail as to the plans in this area.

Nurses: Schools

Ian Swales: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the contribution of school nurses to the implementation of his Department's NHS White Paper; and if he will make a statement. [16952]

Anne Milton: We are currently considering the responses to the consultation on the implementation of the proposals given in the White Paper and will publish a Government response in due course. School nurses make an important contribution to child health and this will continue in the future.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Aerospace Industry

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what meetings he has had with representatives of the aerospace industry since his appointment. [16705]

Mr Prisk: Following his appointment my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State attended the Farnborough International Air Show, where he met representatives from a wide range of aerospace companies of different sizes within the UK supply chain, from primes to small companies, and both national and regional trade associations.

He has also held individual meetings with representatives of Agusta Westland, BAE Systems, EADS, Rolls-Royce, and ADS the lead trade association for the sector.

As announced at Farnborough, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State agreed to chair an Aerospace Business Leaders group which will involve representatives from leading UK aerospace companies to consider issues of strategic importance affecting the sector. Dates for the first meeting are being arranged.

Business: Government Assistance

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many small and medium-sized enterprises received assistance from the public purse in the form of *(a)* grants, *(b)* tax relief, *(c)* investment allowances and *(d)* other financial assistance in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10; and what the average grant made under each category was in each such year. [16367]

Mr Prisk: The information is as follows:

(a) Grants—expenditure on SMEs

Grant for research and development	*2008/09*	*2009/10*
Total number of business assists	354	[1]n/a
Average grant offer (£)	74,582.52	[1]n/a

[1] Not available. RDAs have not yet reported aggregate figures for business receiving support in 2009/10.

Technology Strategy Board (TSB)

Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTPs)	*2008/09*	*2009/10*
Classic		
Number	995	1,025
Average grant (£)	85,985	87,585
Shorter		
Number	3	82
Average grant (£)	15,453	17,751

Note:

Classic projects are 1-3 years duration and shorter projects 10 to 40 weeks (with the latter being launched in July 2009). The above figures represent the number of individual SMEs participating In KTP projects during each year.

Collaborative research and development	*2008/09*	*2009/10*
Number	235	218
Average grant (£)	91,644	138,991

(b) Tax reliefs

Around 2,500 small and medium companies benefit each year from company tax reliefs that are available in the form of payable credits for qualifying expenditure on research and development, land remediation and film production; around a further 6,000 benefit by taking these reliefs in the form of reduced tax liability. Numbers specifically for 2008-09 and 2009-10 are not yet available, but estimated costs are published on the HM Revenue and Customs website:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax_expenditures/table1-5.pdf

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax_expenditures/table-b1.pdf

and

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/corporate_tax/randdtcmenu.htm

(c) Investment allowances

HM Revenue and Customs estimate that in 2008-09 (the latest tax year for which data are currently available) around 900,000 small and medium-sized companies and around 1.2 million self-employed individuals and partnerships claimed capital allowances. It is estimated that these companies' tax liabilities for 2008/09 were around £7,000 lower on average and these individuals' and partnerships' tax liabilities for 2008/09 were around £2,000 lower on average as a result of using capital allowances. Figures for 2009/10 are not yet available.

(d) Other financial assistance

Small Business Research Initiative	*2008/09*	*2009/10*
Number	—	239
Average contract (£)	0	59,087

Grant for Business Investment scheme (GBI)

The total number and value of the GBI offers accepted and payments made to SMEs are as follows:

	2008/09			*2009/10*		
	Number	*Value (£000)*	*Average (£000)*	*Number*	*Value (£000)*	*Average (£000)*
Offers accepted	289	34,946	121	295	44,434	151

	2008/09			2009/10		
	Number	Value (£000)	Average (£000)	Number	Value (£000)	Average (£000)
Payments made	617	33,923	55	492	29,033	59

Notes:
1. Payments made during 2008/09 and 2009/10 include payments on prior projects for which the offer was accepted In an earlier year.
2. For the purposes of these figures a SME is defined as having less than 250 employees and an annual turnover not exceeding £50 million.
3. All data relate to tier 1, 2 and 3 areas.

Small Firms Loan Guarantee

The Small Firms Loan Guarantee and Enterprise Finance Guarantee are loan guarantees through which the Government guarantees additional lending by accredited lenders including the main high street banks rather than to provide direct assistance to small and medium sized enterprises.

Under the Small Firms Loan Guarantee, there were 2,368 loans with a total value of £178 million in the financial year 2008/09 (average loan size of £75,350), and 16 loans with a value of £600,000 in 2009/10 (average loan size approximately £37,500). The Small Firms Loan Guarantee was replaced by the Enterprise Finance Guarantee.

Enterprise Finance Guarantee

The Enterprise Finance Guarantee came into operation in January 2009. Between 14 January 2009 and 31 April 2010, 9,237 businesses were offered loans with a value of £947.1 million, of which 8,344 businesses have drawn down loans totalling £850.6 million. The average size of loans drawn is around £101,940.

Capital for Enterprise Ltd.

BIS has assisted 153 businesses in 2008/09 and 170 businesses in 2009/10 through a range of venture capital funds delivered through Capital for Enterprise Ltd. These include the Enterprise Capital Fund programme, the UK Innovation Investment Fund, and the Capital for Enterprise Fund. Details of these funds can be found at the CfEL website:

www.capitalforenterprise.gov.uk

Regional development agency (RDA)

The regional development agencies (RDAs) provide access to finance support and advice to small business through the business support products provided by Solutions for Business. In 2008/09 RDAs reported that:

233 small businesses received assistance for equity investment and loans through Finance for Business;

2,388 small businesses received advice and support through Understanding Finance for Business;

299 small businesses received micro finance through Small Loans for Business.

RDAs have not yet reported aggregate figures for business receiving support and investment in 2009/10.

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent steps his Department has taken to provide support for small businesses. [17307]

Mr Prisk: We want to make the UK the best place in the world to start and grow a business, and for the next decade to be the most entrepreneurial and dynamic in Britain's history.

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) account for more than 99% of private businesses, and their performance and activity is a key driver of the UK economy. If we are to promote growth in the economy, we need to support small businesses by addressing the challenges they face.

We are doing so in a number of ways, including: ensuring we have a simpler tax system that rewards endeavour; enabling better access to both debt and equity finance; reducing red tape; and making sure that the support we provide SMEs is delivered in the most effective and efficient way possible.

Measures announced recently include:

Tax measures

Reducing the headline rate of corporation tax from 28% to 24% over the course of four financial years from April 2011.

Reducing the small profits rate (formerly known as Small Companies' rate) from 21% to 20% (an increase to 22% was previously planned for April 2011).

Increasing the threshold for employer national insurance contributions by £21 above indexation. This will increase the number of employees for whom employers pay no NICs by 650,000.

Introducing the Regional Employer NICs Holiday for New Businesses—new businesses starting up in selected regions (Scotland, Northern Ireland, Wales, and the following areas of England—north-west, north-east, Yorkshire and Humber, west midlands, south-west and the east midlands) will not have to pay the first £5,000 of class 1 NICs due in the first 12 months of employment. This will apply for each of the first 10 employees hired within the first year of business, and will run until September 2013.

Measures to help growing businesses access the finance they need

A £200 million extension to the Enterprise Finance Guarantee (EFG), to benefit around 2,000 extra small businesses. In total, the EFG will now support up to £700 million in bank lending to viable small businesses.

A new £37.5 million Enterprise Capital Fund to support small businesses with high growth potential—combining both Government and private sector funding.

Confirmation of a Growth Capital Fund, to provide funding of between £2 million and £10 million for SMEs with strong growth potential.

As announced in the emergency Budget, we have published a Green Paper on business finance before the summer recess and we are now analysing the responses. We are also expecting recommendations shortly from the Banking Industry Taskforce, led by the British Bankers' Association, which was announced in the Green Paper.

BIS is also supporting work to develop the capacity of the microfinance sector via the Community Development Finance Association (CDFA). The CDFA's members Community Development Finance Institutions (CDFIs)—undertake enterprise lending in disadvantaged communities or groups who are unable to access finance from mainstream banks. They are supported by Community Investment Tax Relief (CITR).

Measures to reduce red tape for SMEs

Introducing a 'one-in, one-out' rule whereby no new regulation is brought in without other regulation being cut by a greater amount.

Undertaking a review of employment law to ensure they offer maximum flexibility; protect fairness; and promote competitiveness.

Working to make it easier to register a limited company at Companies House by reducing paperwork and moving towards a 'one-click' registration.

As an interim step towards 'one click registration', by April 2011 we have announced that we will launch a one-stop-shop portal for starting a company through which business owners can access an online incorporation service and access to registration for PAYE. By end 2011 we will introduce a single interaction form to enable businesses to register for multiple taxes online and to authorise tax agents.

We have set up the new Sub-Committee on Reducing Regulation, with a remit to reduce the burden of regulation on business. It has already announced a major review of regulations in the pipeline.

June's Budget also announced regulatory sunset clauses: regulations will cease to be law after seven years (unless they are explicitly set to have a longer timeframe). They may only be extended beyond this period if Parliament has confirmed they are still necessary and proportionate.

Reviewing business support

As part of the spending review, we are considering all aspects of expenditure, including priorities for providing business support and the channels through which it can be most effectively and efficiently delivered.

We are committed to renewing and strengthening local economies — and are enabling business and local authorities located in genuine economic areas to come together to form Local Enterprise Partnerships.

We asked local authorities and business to put forward outline proposals for partnerships. Over the coming weeks Ministers will consider the proposals received in detail, looking at how they will support economic growth, before providing feedback to partnerships ahead of the publication of the White Paper on sub-national economic growth and the introduction of the Localism Bill.

Departmental Contracts

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what contracts his Department has awarded to voluntary sector organisations in the last two years; and what the monetary value was of each such contract. [17250]

Mr Davey: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Manpower

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many officials his Department has appointed on fixed-term contracts since 7 May 2010. [16784]

Mr Davey: Since 7 May, the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has appointed four people on fixed-term contracts.

Economic Growth

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects to publish his Department's White Paper on Sub National Growth; and if he will make a statement. [16987]

Mr Prisk: The Government will publish its White Paper on sub-national growth soon.

Email: Fraud

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to prevent scams perpetrated on UK residents through emails originating outside the UK. [17041]

Mr Davey: £4 million of funding over three years is being provided for the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) and Trading Standards Services to enable them to target these types of criminals and tackle online fraud, such as e-mail scams that encourage people to send money in order to claim lottery winnings or a big prize. This funding is providing both specialist IT equipment and specialist training to ensure that enforcers have the skills required to undertake investigations.

The OFT has recently consulted on a longer term national strategy for e-consumer protection to be delivered by the end of 2010. The strategy will enable enforcement agencies to work together even more effectively and ensure better targeting and co-ordination of e-protection activities and there are no overlaps.

The Government are currently reviewing whether enforcers have the necessary powers to tackle e-crime against consumers, against the backdrop that many consumer laws were implemented before the internet age.

Employment Agencies: EU Law

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he had with representative bodies on the implementation in October 2011 and effects of the European Agency Workers Directive; and if he will make a statement. [16775]

Mr Davey: I have met various bodies representing the views of hirers, agencies and agency workers to discuss the impact of this directive. Consequently I am aware of different points of view expressed about certain aspects of the Agency Workers Regulations 2010 which implement the European Agency Workers Directive and the Government are currently considering the way forward.

Industrial Development Boards

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 16 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 1263W, on industrial development boards, what role he expects the private sector to take at sub-regional level in undertaking the functions previously carried out by the advisory panels; and if he will make a statement. [16663]

Mr Prisk: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave on 16 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 1263W.

EU Consumer Credit Directive

Paul Maynard: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the likely effects on the consumer credit market of the European Consumer Credit Directive. [16636]

Mr Davey: An Impact Assessment accompanied the regulations implementing the Consumer Credit Directive when they were laid before Parliament on 30 March 2010. The amending regulations laid before Parliament on 5 August 2010 to correct errors in the original regulations did not change the intention of those regulations and so no new Impact Assessment was prepared.

Members: Correspondence

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he plans to respond to the letter from the hon. Member for Bridgend of 20 July 2010 on letters to a constituent from Getty Images. [17073]

Mr Davey: We regret that we can find no record of this correspondence. If the hon. Member could send me the correspondence again we will do this as a matter of urgency.

Paternity Leave

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many businesses with less than 10 employees his Department consulted on its decision to retain additional paternity leave. [17195]

Mr Davey: Regulations introducing Additional Paternity Leave were made by Parliament in April 2010, with effect for parents of children due on or after 3 April 2011. The policy they implement was subject to a number of consultation exercises under the previous administration, to which small businesses and their representatives made a significant contribution. Details of the consultations, including responses from business, are available at:

www.bis.gov.uk

The coalition is proceeding with the introduction of Additional Paternity Leave as an interim measure towards the fulfilling of our commitment to encourage shared parenting from the earliest stages of pregnancy—including the promotion of a system of flexible parental leave.

We want to give parents and employers the flexibility they need—that is why we will be consulting on radical ideas on how to make shared parental leave work not just for parents but also the businesses that employ them.

It is estimated that less than 3% of small businesses will be affected by Additional Paternity Leave over the course of the Parliament.

Royal Mail

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will undertake a public consultation before bringing forward proposals on the future of Royal Mail. [16905]

Mr Davey: No. The Postal Services Bill, which has just been introduced in Parliament, draws heavily on Richard Hooper's analysis and recommendations from his updated report, published in September. It is clear from the report that Royal Mail faces serious problems and the need for action to protect the universal postal service is greater than ever.

Richard Hooper canvassed a wide range of interested stakeholders during his year-long review of the postal services sector in 2008 (commissioned under the previous Government), including taking two rounds of written evidence. When producing his update, he again sought the views of all those who had contributed to his original report and met all the leading stakeholders.

Our approach to Royal Mail and the postal market is fact and evidenced based.

Vocational Training: Engineering

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to increase the level of skills in the power systems engineering sector in the *(a)* short and *(b)* long-term. [16938]

Mr Hayes: The Government recognises the extent of the skills challenge in the power sector which was underlined by several leading figures in the sector at "The Energy Forum" held on October 11 this year. The Government's response to the challenge, both in the long and the short term, is through its joint support and funding for the National Skills Academy for Power (NSAP) in collaboration with power sector employers.

The Academy is addressing immediate skills gaps at the same time as assessing longer term demand for skills and optimising training capacity to deliver against identified need. Alongside developing qualifications and providing training materials for the sector, the Academy is establishing a network of quality assured education and skills providers to develop the capacity, capability, quality and consistency of training for a sustainable UK power sector.

NSAP will also work closely with the Power Academy, which is sponsored by the Institution of Engineering Technologies, to improve the supply of graduate electrical engineers from higher education. The Power Academy represents a collaboration of 18 power sector employers and seven UK universities, together with the Institute of Engineering Technologies and the Energy and Utilities Sector Skills Council.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Carer's Allowance

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has made an estimate of the number of *(a)* men and *(b)* women who received carer's allowance in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10. [17137]

Maria Miller: The requested information is as follows:

As at February each year	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
2009	131,500	371,000	502,500
2010	142,860	388,030	530,890

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Caseloads for CA show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital or not in payment due to payment of another income replacement benefit.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100% data.

Child Support

Stephen McPartland: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what *(a)* monetary value and *(b)* proportion of child support payments went unpaid in each of the last five years. [15016]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated October 2010:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what (a) monetary value and (b) proportion of child support payments went unpaid in each of the last five years. [15016]

Robust management information is not available on the monetary value of unpaid child maintenance payments or the proportion of child support payments that went unpaid in the last five years. Table 1 in Annex A shows the number of cases which paid any requested maintenance (including maintenance direct arrangements), those that failed to pay at all and those that were classed as assessed but not charging in the quarter to June each year.

Annex A—table 1: Compliant, nil compliant and assessed not charging caseload

Quarter to June each year:	*Cases with maintenance liability*	*Compliant caseload*	*Percentage of liable caseload*	*Nil compliant caseload*	*Percentage of liable caseload*	*Assessed not charging caseload*	*Percentage of liable caseload*
2006	736,600	470,300	64	139,700	19	126,600	17
2007	804,500	520,800	65	170,600	21	110,400	14
2008	852,700	578,700	68	176,900	21	97,100	11
2009	835,900	604,200	72	151,000	18	80,700	10
2010	843,100	648,400	77	138,900	16	55,900	7

Notes:

1. Figures rounded to nearest 100. Percentages rounded to nearest 1%.
2. Cases are classed as compliant if they are currently open, have been charged and paid money via the collection service (either regular maintenance and/or arrears) over the preceding quarter.
3. Compliant caseload includes cases where a maintenance direct arrangement between the non resident parent and parent with care has been agreed.
4. Nil compliant means that payments were expected but none were received.
5. Cases are classed as assessed and not charging (that is to say they have a positive liability but no active charging schedule is in place) if there have been no charges or receipts via the collection service over the period.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to improve its level of compliance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [16940]

Steve Webb: The Department takes very seriously its obligations under the Freedom of Information Act. It has experienced a significant increase in the number of Freedom of Information requests received. Despite this, internal monitoring shows that more than 90% of the Department's Freedom of Information requests were dealt with on time in June, July and August this year, the most recent months for which figures are available. The Department is also committed to increasing the transparency of its responses.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department spent on hospitality for events hosted by each Minister in his Department in July 2010. [14933]

Chris Grayling: No money has been spent by this Department in relation to hospitality events hosted by its Ministers during July 2010.

Employment Schemes: Peterborough

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has made an estimate of the number of people in Peterborough constituency who were participating in *(a)* community task force, *(b)* routes into work and *(c)* work-focused training programmes on 30 April 2010; and if he will make a statement. [16974]

Chris Grayling: The answers are as follows:

(a) The number participating in Community Task Force on the 30 April 2010 is not available. However, 90 people are recorded as having started Community Task Force in the Peterborough constituency during the period October 2009 to July 2010.

(b) Information on starts to Routes into Work is not available.

(c) The number participating in the Young Person's Guarantee Work Focused Training on the 30 April 2010 is not available. However, 520 people are recorded as having started Work Focused Training in the East of England region during the period October 2009 to July 2010.

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent progress has been made on his Department's Work programme, with particular reference to Peterborough constituency; and if he will make a statement. [16975]

Chris Grayling: The commercial process for the Work programme is on track. The Invitation to Tender for the Framework for Employment Related Support Services ("the Framework") was published on the 23 August, and we are currently evaluating tenders. We expect to be able to announce who has been successful before the end of the year. The Framework will be divided into 11 geographical lots: the East of England lot includes Peterborough.

Once the announcement has been made regarding which organisations have gained access to the Framework, we will run a mini-competition for those organisations on the Framework interested in delivering the Work programme.

Fuel Poverty: Cancer

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people diagnosed with cancer in fuel poverty who *(a)* receive and *(b)* do not receive disability living allowance. [13725]

Steve Webb: The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) currently have the governmental lead on fuel poverty. The detailed information as to how many people with a cancer diagnosis are living in fuel poverty and in receipt of disability living allowance (DLA) is not currently available.

People with an appropriate[1] cancer diagnosis are classified as long-term sick in the English Households Survey[2] that underpins DECC's analytical work on fuel poverty. While this survey records some information around the health of the householders, it does not specifically ask about a diagnosis of cancer, which could be deemed intrusive. In addition, the information recorded around health of householders in the survey is not robust enough to disaggregate fuel poverty data by individual types of illness.

People diagnosed with cancer are included in the fuel poverty vulnerable group (which includes the elderly, households containing children and those who are sick or disabled).

The detailed tables of their Annual Report on Fuel Poverty Statistics 2009[3] show that in England in 2007—the latest year for which figures are available—around 17% (1.1 million) of households containing somebody who was disabled or long-term sick were in fuel poverty.

The publication also suggests that of approximately 15.6 million vulnerable households in England in 2007, around 2.7 million were in fuel poverty. Of these, around 73% (2.0 million) of households were in receipt of either means-tested benefits, tax credits, attendance allowance or DLA.

[1] Not all cancer diagnoses will be related to long-term illness.

[2] http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingsurveys/englishhousingsurvey/

[3] http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/fuelpov_stats/fuelpov_stats.aspx

Independent Living Fund

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has for the future of the Independent Living Fund; and if he will make a statement. [16928]

Maria Miller: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for South Down (Ms Ritchie) on 4 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 1341W.

As set out in my statement to the House on 26 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 77-78WS, we will consider the long-term future of the Independent Living Fund as part of the forthcoming spending review, working with the trustees of the fund, disabled people's organisations, and other key stakeholders including local authorities.

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which disability organisations the Minister for Disabled People has met to discuss the future of the Independent Living Fund; and on what dates. [17072]

Maria Miller: I have met with a number of disability organisations and other bodies to discuss the future of the Independent Living Fund: the Chair of Equality 2025 on 8 June 2010; the All Party Parliamentary Group on Disability on 21 June 2010; and the Disability Charities Consortium and the Disabled People's Organisations Group on 28 July 2010. I have also met with other disability organisations individually, including speaking with the National Centre for Independent Living (NCIL) most recently on 13 October 2010, and will continue to do so as we consider the future on the Independent Living Fund in the context of the forthcoming spending review.

I have also had meetings with the Trustees and management of the Independent Living Fund on 1 June 2010, 22 July 2010 and 15 September 2010 and held telephone meetings with devolved administrations.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Lone Parents

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many lone parents are in receipt of jobseeker's allowance in Kilmarnock and Loudoun constituency. [17129]

Chris Grayling: In July 2010 there were 175 lone parents claiming jobseeker's allowance in Kilmarnock and Loudoun.

The figure has been rounded to the nearest five.

Lone Parents: Advisory Services

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department has taken to support access to independent advice services for single parent families in the last 12 months. [14724]

Maria Miller: Jobcentre Plus offers lone parents advice and practical support with job seeking, training opportunities, in-work income and child care options. Support may include referral to a wide range of local independent advice services.

The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, for which the Department for Work and Pensions is the sponsoring body, provides, through Child Maintenance Options, impartial information and support to parents about how to make a child's maintenance arrangement. The Options service also provides information and support on other issues parents might face in making maintenance arrangements, such as housing, legal and money concerns. In addition, the service can signpost parents to organisations that provide specialist help and advice.

The Child Poverty Unit, jointly sponsored by the Department for Work and Pensions, the Department for Education and HM Treasury, is conducting a pilot looking at how best to co-ordinate local services for separating and recently separated parents and their children so that access to financial, practical, legal and emotional support is speeded up, keeping the negative impact of separation on children's outcomes to a minimum. The pilot is running in 10 local authority areas and focuses on partnership working and aligning activity to improve outcomes.

Older People: Anniversaries

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the cost of *(a)* payments under and *(b)* administration of a scheme under which people are sent £1,000 on their 100th birthdays. [13419]

Steve Webb: The cost of such a payment would be around £4.9 million in 2010, rising to £10.2 million in 2020. High-level estimates of the full cost of administrating such a scheme are £52,000 in 2010 rising to £128,000 by 2020.

The cost of the payment and its administration would continue to increase over time in line with changing demographics.

Note:

Estimates are derived using Office of National Statistics 2008-based population projections. The estimated administration cost assumes the centenarian is already in receipt of state pension or pension credit, living in Great Britain, and represents the costs of making an additional clerical payment.

Poverty: Children

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many children were living in poverty *(a)* before housing costs and *(b)* after housing costs in Gateshead borough in each year since 2000. [15647]

Maria Miller: Estimates of the number and proportion of children living in poverty are published in the Households Below Average Income (HBAI) series. HBAI uses household income adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, to provide a proxy for standard of living.

As they are based on survey data, child poverty estimates published in HBAI only allow breakdowns to Government Office Region and analysis at local authority level is not possible. However, figures for the North East of England are set out in Table 1.

Table 1: Number and percentage of children living in households with less than 60% of contemporary median household income for the North East of England, before housing costs and after housing costs

	Before Housing Costs		*After Housing Costs*	
Period	*Number (million)*	*Percentage*	*Number (million)*	*Percentage*
2000-01 to 2002-03	0.2	32	0.2	36
2001-02 to 2003-04	0.2	30	0.2	33
2002-03 to 2004-05	0.2	31	0.2	34
2003-04 to 2005-06	0.2	28	0.2	32
2004-05 to 2006-07	0.2	28	0.2	33
2005-06 to 2007-08	0.1	28	0.2	33
2006-07 to 2008-09	0.1	28	0.2	34

Notes:

1. These statistics are based on the Households Below Average Income series, sourced from the Family Resources Survey.
2. All estimates are based on survey data and are therefore subject to uncertainty. Small differences should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
3. The reference period for Households Below Average Income figures are single financial years. Three survey years have been combined as regional single-year estimates are subject to volatility.
4. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication 'Households Below Average Income' (HBAI) series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
5. For the Households Below Average Income series, incomes have been equivalised using Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) modified equivalisation factors.

Source:

Households Below Average Income, DWP

Social Security Benefits

Liz Kendall: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has made a recent estimate of the number of households in each *(a)* parliamentary constituency and *(b)* region in respect of which benefits of over £500 a week are claimed. [16968]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not available at a parliamentary constituency level.

The information is available for Great Britain. Latest estimates show that in 2010-11 there are around 100,000 working age households in receipt of more than £500 a week in all benefits and tax credits, including disability living allowance. If disability living allowance is excluded, then around 50,000 working age households are in receipt of more than £500 a week.

The Chancellor's announcement of a benefit cap was informed by high-level consideration of the broad impacts. We are now working up the more detailed design of the caps as part of the spending review. When we introduce legislation for the implementation of the caps, we shall publish an impact assessment.

Note:

All figures are rounded to the nearest 50,000.

Source:

DWP Policy Simulation Model, based on the 2008-09 Family Resources Survey data.

Social Security Benefits: Appeals

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many benefit appeals lodged with his Department had yet to be referred to the first-tier tribunal as at 14 June 2010. [13503]

Maria Miller: The following table shows the number of appeals that have been lodged in Department of Work and Pensions but have not been referred to Tribunal Service.

Appeals outstanding in Department of Work and Pensions

	Number
Bereavement benefit	50
Disablement benefit	200
Employment and support allowance	29,700
Incapacity benefit	4,700
Income support	3,800
Jobseekers allowance	6,500
Maternity allowance	1,300
Social fund	700
Disability living allowance	9,600
Attendance allowance	500
Carers allowance	400
State pension	1,600

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
2. The outstanding figures for disability living allowance and attendance allowance appeals is for week ending 11 June 2010, which is the nearest available date to 14 June.
3. The outstanding figures for all other benefit appeals is for the end of June, which is the nearest available date to 14 June.

The source of the data is the Management Information System programme (MISP). MISP is the departmental performance management, data capture and reporting tool. This type of internal management information does not form part of the official statistics outputs that are released by the Department in accordance with the UK Statistics Authority's Code of Practice.

Social Security Benefits: Equality

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to undertake a gender equality impact assessment in relation to his proposals to introduce a universal credit. [17397]

Maria Miller: Legislation places a duty on all public authorities to pay due regard to the need to promote gender equality. The Government are strongly committed to this principle. My Department undertakes equality impact assessments on any changes to departmental policies and practices and has a well established set of processes to ensure these have a strong evidence base. When we publish our welfare reform proposals we will also be publishing an impact assessment of these changes, which will include an equality impact assessment.

Social Security Benefits: Kent

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people aged 18 to 24 years in *(a)* Medway and *(b)* Chatham and Aylesford constituency had been in receipt of benefits for (i) less than six months, (ii) six to 12 months, (iii) 12 to 18 months and (iv) 18 months and over on the latest date for which figures are available. [15163]

Maria Miller: Table 1 provides details of the number of 18 to 24-year-old claimants in Medway local authority and Chatham and Aylesford parliamentary constituency. The data have been split by working-age statistical group and duration on benefit, and are for February 2010, the latest data available at present.

Table 1: Number of 18 to 24-year-old claimants by working-age statistical group and duration on benefit—February 2010

Statistical group	*Duration*	*Great Britain*	*Medway*	*Chatham and Aylesford*
All benefits	All	874,750	4,510	1,780
	Up to 6 months	419,120	1,920	790
	6 months up to 12 months	132,620	840	310
	12 months to 18 months	60,330	400	140
	18 months and over	262,680	1,350	540
Job Seeker	All	445,690	2,400	930
	Up to 6 months	336,760	1,530	630
	6 months up to 12 months	77,610	590	210
	12 months to 18 months	18,850	190	60
	18 months and over	12,470	90	30
Incapacity benefits	All	158,730	700	270
	Up to 6 months	32,890	120	50
	6 months up to 12 months	16,470	70	30
	12 months to 18 months	10,620	60	20
	18 months and over	98,750	440	170
Lone Parent	All	171,560	870	370
	Up to 6 months	27,860	140	60
	6 months up to 12 months	29,420	140	60
	12 months to 18 months	23,680	110	40
	18 months and over	90,600	480	200
Carer	All	18,930	90	30
	Up to 6 months	3,780	20	*
	6 months up to 12 months	3,820	20	*
	12 months to 18 months	2,710	20	10
	18 months and over	8,610	40	20
Others on income-related benefit	All	29,560	150	70
	Up to 6 months	16,340	100	50
	6 months up to 12 months	3,600	20	10
	12 months to 18 months	3,030	10	*
	18 months and over	6,590	30	10
Disabled	All	50,230	300	120
	Up to 6 months	1,480	10	*

Table 1: Number of 18 to 24-year-old claimants by working-age statistical group and duration on benefit—February 2010

Statistical group	*Duration*	*Great Britain*	*Medway*	*Chatham and Aylesford*
	6 months up to 12 months	1,690	10	*
	12 months to 18 months	1,430	10	
	18 months and over	45,630	270	100
Bereaved	All	40	*	*
	Up to 6 months	*	*	*
	6 months up to 12 months	10	*	*
	12 months to 18 months	10	*	*
	18 months and over	20	*	*

"*" Denotes nil or negligible.

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

2. Benefits are arranged hierarchically and claimants are assigned to the uppermost benefit which they receive. Thus a person who is a lone parent and receives Incapacity Benefit would be classified as 'Incapacity benefits', whereas someone receiving both Bereavement Benefit and Disability Living Allowance would be classified as 'Disabled'. For this reason the group 'Lone Parent', for example, will not contain all lone parents claiming Income Support. Some will be included in the 'Employment and Support Allowance and incapacity benefits' group instead:

Job Seeker—Claimant of Job Seekers Allowance

Incapacity Benefits—Claimant of either Incapacity Benefit, Severe Disablement Allowance or Employment and Support Allowance

Lone Parent—Claimant of Income Support with a child under 16 and no partner

Carer—Claimant of Carer's Allowance

Others on Income related benefit—Other Income Support claimants (including IS disability premiums) or Pension Credit claimant

Disabled—Claimant of either Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance or Industrial Injuries Benefits

Bereaved—Claimant of either Widow's Benefit, Bereavement Benefit or Industrial Death Benefit

3. Lone Parent Obligations were introduced from 24 November 2008 affecting the age of the youngest child. Further details are provided here:

http://83.244.183.180/100pc/wa/tabtool_wa.html

4. Parliamentary Constituency figures are using 2010 Parliamentary Constituency boundaries

Source:

DWP Information Directorate 100% WPLS

Social Security Benefits: Medical Examinations

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will take steps to ensure that those contracted by his Department to provide services for individuals with speech and communication difficulties offer a bilingual service in Wales; and if he will make a statement. [16144]

Chris Grayling: It is standard practice to ensure that all the services we provide the public in Wales are available in Welsh, and that out customers are aware of this fact.

To this end a comprehensive Welsh Language Schedule is included in the Department's standard terms and conditions with which our contractors must comply when delivering services to the public in Wales.

Social Security Benefits: Scotland

Margaret Curran: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has made a recent estimate of the number of households in *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Glasgow and *(c)* Glasgow East constituency which receive more than £500 a week in (i) all benefits and (ii) all benefits excluding disability living allowance. [16981]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not available, as sample sizes are too small to yield reliable results for Scotland, and is not available at a parliamentary constituency level.

The information is available for Great Britain. Latest estimates show that in 2010-11 there are:

(i) around 100,000 working age households in receipt of more than £500 a week in all benefits and tax credits, including disability living allowance, and

(ii) around 50,000 working age households in receipt of more than £500 a week in all benefits and tax credits, excluding disability living allowance.

The Chancellor's announcement of a benefit cap was informed by high-level consideration of the broad impacts. We are now working up the more detailed design of the caps as part of the spending review. When we introduce legislation for the implementation of the caps, we shall publish an impact assessment.

Note:

All figures are rounded to the nearest 50,000.

Source:

DWP Policy Simulation Model, based on the 2008-09 Family Resources Survey data.

Temporary Employment

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what effect his decision to grant contract extensions to some customer-facing, fixed-term employees whose positions were due to end over summer 2010 has had on his Department's expenditure for 2010-11; and what account has been taken of this effect in his Department's budget. [14132]

Chris Grayling: The Department has used fixed-term appointments (FTA) to manage the temporary increase in workloads caused by the recession. Extensions to approximately 600 FTA contracts have been made in customer-facing areas during the summer months at a cost of around £3 million. The decision to extend these contracts was made due to higher than anticipated staff attrition rate so with less staff in the Department they were contained within original budgets.

Winter Fuel Payments

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has made an estimate of the number of *(a)* men and *(b)* women who received winter fuel allowance payments in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10. [17134]

Steve Webb: The information for 2008-09 is available on page 1 of the document Winter Fuel Payments 2008-09, Final Individual Payments by GOR/LA and Parliamentary Constituency. This is available in the House of Commons Library.

The information for 2009-10 is available on page 1 of the document "Winter Fuel Payment recipients 2009-2010 by Parliamentary Constituencies and Gender (All)". I am today placing a copy in the House of Commons

Library together with other documents in the Winter Fuel Payments 2009-10 series. They are also available on the internet at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=wfp

Work Capability Assessment

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 6 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 104W, on work capability assessment, if he will place in the Library a copy of the contract between his Department and Atos Healthcare which contains details of the quality targets relating to audit of work capability assessments. [15164]

Chris Grayling: An updated copy of the Medical Services Contract between Atos Healthcare and the Department for Work and Pensions has been placed in the Library:

http://deposits.parliament.uk

Work Capability Assessment: Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

Margaret Curran: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the agency contracted to provide medical examinations as part of the Work Capability Assessment has been issued with specific guidance on the assessment of persons presenting a diagnosis of myalgic encephalomyelitis or chronic fatigue syndrome. [14304]

Chris Grayling: All health care professionals working for Atos Healthcare are required to read an evidence-based protocol on chronic fatigue syndrome as part of their induction training. This was last updated in January 2010. In addition, all health care professionals are required to engage in a programme of continuing medical education which includes two modules on chronic fatigue syndrome. These were last updated in April 2009 and March 2010 respectively.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Pakistan

12. **Mr Holloway:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the humanitarian situation in Pakistan; and if he will make a statement. [16526]

14. **Henry Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the humanitarian situation in Pakistan; and if he will make a statement. [16528]

15. **Jason McCartney:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his latest assessment is of the humanitarian situation in Pakistan; and if he will make a statement. [16529]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The situation in Pakistan is still evolving. In some areas of the country early recovery is beginning, while in other areas emergency relief is still needed, particularly in Sindh province. My Department continues to closely monitor the situation to identify and deliver aid appropriately.

For further details I refer my hon. Friends to my written statement of 12 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 12WS.

Cameroon: Forced Marriage

13. **Jim Sheridan:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will take steps to ensure that aid provided to Cameroon by his Department does not support circumstances whereby young women may be forced into marriage. [16527]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) has a small programme in Cameroon focused solely on the forestry sector. We are confident that our activities do not support an environment that encourages the forced marriage of young women.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he has made an estimate of the change in the level of carbon dioxide emissions from his Department since May 2010; and what steps he plans to take to meet his Department's target of reducing such emissions by 10 per cent. by May 2011. [16813]

Mr Duncan: Carbon emissions arising from energy consumption by the Department for International Development's (DFID's) two UK offices during the first half of financial year 2010-11 were 8% lower than the corresponding period of 2009-10.

DFID is implementing a number of measures to reduce our energy consumption, including: replacing some internal lighting with energy efficient LED fittings; rationalising the number of IT servers; reorganising our London office to reduce our space requirement; reviewing and reducing the number of hours heating and cooling system are in operation; and installing a Green Roof at our East Kilbride office to improve thermal insulation.

Departmental Contracts

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the monetary value is of contracts his Department has awarded to each *(a)* management consultancy and *(b)* IT company since 7 May 2010. [16178]

Mr Duncan: All ICT contracts issued by the Department for International Development (DFID) with a contract award value of £10,000 or above have been published on the DFID website since July 2010. Details are available at:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Working-with-DFID/Procurement/ICT-contracts/

DFID consultancy contracts are categorised in line with the Office of Government Commerce's (OGC) definition of consultancy. DFID has introduced a new 'Business Case Process' to manage the use of consultancy in line with the central Government freeze. Since May 2010 there has been a significant drop in the number of contracts awarded within the consultancy category and therefore we expect to see a significant reduction in consultancy spend for the financial year 2010-11.

Departmental Manpower

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many people his Department employs to check whether overseas authorities are correctly appropriating their aid receipts. [16115]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) requires all grant recipients to provide audited financial statements confirming the use of funds. In addition, our programme staff conduct annual monitoring reviews to assess the use of funds.

The Department does not, however, record the amount of time that individual staff members allocate to these responsibilities, and it is not therefore possible to estimate the total number of full time equivalent staff assigned to this role.

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many *(a)* officials of his Department and *(b)* external advisers are working on his Department's review of the Government's overseas aid spending. [16958]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development (DFID) is conducting two reviews: the Bilateral Aid Review (BAR) and the Multilateral Aid Review (MAR). It has also commissioned a third independent review of the UK's humanitarian emergency response capability and is providing the Secretariat for this review. The teams co-ordinating the BAR and MAR both consist of four officials. Two external reviewers will also act as peer reviewers during the course of the MAR. The Humanitarian and Emergency Response Review (HERR) team is made up of six officials, one consultant and one secondee from the Development Assistance Research Associates. In addition to these teams, staff across DFID are providing inputs into all three reviews and it is therefore not possible to determine the total number of officials working on these reviews without incurring disproportionate cost.

Overseas Aid

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many meetings he has had with *(a)* the President of the World Bank, *(b)* the Head of the Global Fund and *(c)* the UN Relief Co-ordinator on organisational reform and future funding from his Department since 7 May 2010; and on what dates. [8889]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: I met with Robert Zoellick, President of the World Bank, on 2 June in London, 25 June in Washington, 20 September in the margins of the Millennium Development Goal summit in New York, and on 8 and 9 October at the annual meetings in Washington. Aspects of organisational reform and future funding were covered during these meetings.

Michel Kazatchkine, Head of the Global Fund, and I discussed organizational reform and future funding during a meeting on 17 August. We also met in New York in the margins of the MDG summit.

I met with the former UN Under-Secretary General Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Sir John Holmes, on 19 August and 9 September. Aspects of organisational reform and future funding were covered in the discussion. I also met with Baroness Valerie Amos before she took up the post, on 7 July, and then on 5 October, and will meet her again on 19 October.

I speak to them all on a regular basis in the ordinary course of business.

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when he plans to bring forward legislative proposals to require the Government to spend 0.7 per cent. of gross national income on overseas aid in each year from 2013. [16842]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The coalition Government have made a very clear pledge to meet the target of spending 0.7% of Gross National Income (GNI) as Official Development Assistance (ODA) from 2013. We will enshrine this spending commitment in law as soon as the parliamentary timetable allows.

Pakistan: Floods

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what contribution his Department has made to humanitarian relief efforts following the recent floods in Pakistan. [16116]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: I refer the hon. Member to my oral statement of 7 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 187, and my written statement of 12 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 12WS.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

BBC External Services

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent research his Department has *(a)* evaluated and *(b)* commissioned on the effects on each receiving country of the BBC World Service (i) broadcast radio and (ii) foreign language websites. [17150]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has not commissioned any recent research on the effects of the BBC World Service.

The BBC World Service itself recently conducted independent research into the audiences of four of its major markets: Pakistan, Egypt, Kenya and Turkey, in addition to its on-going programme of audience measurement and evaluation.

BBC Russian Service

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the feasibility of the BBC World Service Russian Service resuming broadcasts to Russia in circumstances in which the frequencies currently used by that service are relinquished. [17148]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has not carried out any such feasibility study.

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the level of influence of *(a)* the BBC Russian Service on Russian society and *(b)* the English-language Russian channel on the UK since 1989. [17149]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The BBC World Service carried out an extensive survey of the audience for their Russian language service in November 2009. This survey included audience perceptions of the BBC World Service Russian service. It found that the BBC is a clearly recognised brand, and evidence shows that the audience for the BBC Russian service grows in times of crisis.

Neither the Foreign and Commonwealth Office nor the BBC World Service has carried out a specific survey of the level of influence of 'Russia Today' in the UK.

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will discuss with the BBC Trust the retention of BBC broadcasting services to Russia. [17151]

Mr Jeremy Browne: As part of the Government's Spending Review, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) is in discussion with Her Majesty's Treasury about all aspects of the FCO's future budget, including the FCO's grant in aid to the BBC World Service. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has made clear the need for all parts of the FCO family, including BBC World Service, to contribute to efforts to boost efficiency and cut public spending.

Ministers and senior FCO officials have regularly discussed the Spending Review with the director of the BBC Worldwide Service since the review was announced.

Its outcome will be announced to Parliament on 20 October.

Cambodia: Politics and Government

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made a recent assessment of the extent of democratic freedoms in Cambodia; and if he will make a statement. [16963]

Mr Jeremy Browne: Cambodia's constitution provides for the protection of democratic freedoms and human rights, but these are not always fully adhered to in practice.

A recent independent assessment of democratic freedoms in Cambodia can be found in the annual report of the Office of the UN high commissioner for Human Rights in Cambodia. We share the concerns expressed in that report about the use of charges of criminal defamation and disinformation to discourage public debate, and the effect on political pluralism of criminal charges brought against members of opposition parties. The UK raised these concerns at the Human Rights Council during the debate on renewal of the mandate of the UN Special Rapporteur for Cambodia on 28 September.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to his Cambodian counterpart on the Cambodian government's treatment of the opposition leader Sam Rainsy. [16964]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The UK, with EU partners, has raised concerns with the Government of Cambodia about treatment of Opposition members of the National Assembly including Sam Rainsy on a number of occasions. The local EU Presidency raised the democratic rights of opposition parliamentarians at a meeting with the Minister of Interior, Deputy Prime Minister Sar Kheng, on 15 June. EU and Cambodian representatives also discussed this issue during the Cambodia-EC Joint Committee held in Brussels on 7-8 October. The UK raised concerns about the use of criminal defamation and disinformation charges at the Human Rights Council during the debate on renewal of the mandate of the UN Special Rapporteur for Cambodia on 28 September.

Officials from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office met with Sam Rainsy during his visit to the UK on 22 September.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the independence of the judiciary in Cambodia. [16965]

Mr Jeremy Browne: In his report of 16 September UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Cambodia, Professor Surya Subedi made a series of recommendations with the aim of improving the human rights situation through strengthening the independence and capacity of the judiciary.

On 9 September officials from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office met Professor Surya Subedi to discuss the contents of his report. The UK shares the concerns expressed in Professor Subedi's report and made this clear in our statement to the Human Rights Council on 28 September.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports his Department has received on the criminal charges against Cambodian opposition leader Sam Rainsy. [16966]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We are aware that Sam Rainsy was found guilty of disinformation and falsifying public documents and was sentenced in absentia to 10 years imprisonment and to a fine. The charges relate to documents he published in 2009 to support his allegation that the ongoing process of border demarcation with Vietnam is encroaching on Cambodian territory. This follows a sentence passed in January 2010 of two years imprisonment on separate charges of damage to public property and racial incitement.

The UK, with EU partners, has raised concerns with the Government of Cambodia about the treatment of Opposition members of the National Assembly, including Sam Rainsy, on a number of occasions. The UK shares the concerns of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Cambodia on the effect on political pluralism of criminal charges brought against members of the opposition parties.

Colombia: Human Rights

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made recent representations to the Colombian government on its human rights record. [16575]

Mr Jeremy Browne: I represented the UK at the inauguration of President Juan Manuel Santos in August. I took the opportunity of a private meeting with the President and several of his Ministers on 9 August to urge more progress on human rights. I was encouraged by the President's commitment to make human rights a "non-issue" in Colombia. We welcome this renewed commitment and we will work with his administration towards this common end.

Ilois: Resettlement

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on the return of Chagos Islanders to the Chagos Islands; and if he will make a statement. [17402]

Mr Bellingham: The Government have looked into policy on the British Indian Ocean Territory and have decided to defend the claims for resettlement and compensation which the Chagos Islanders have brought to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. This is because we believe the arguments against allowing resettlement on the grounds of feasibility and defence security are clear and compelling. Nor do we see the case for compensation as this has already been paid in full and final settlement of all claims. Both of these issues have already been decided by the UK courts.

However, we do want to keep channels of communication open to the Chagossian communities and explore new ideas for their engagement with the Territory, short of resettlement. We plan to continue our support for islanders wishing to visit to tend family graves, engage in heritage conservation and contribute to environmental work, including the implementation of the Marine Protected Area.

Libya: Repatriation

Damian Collins: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will place in the Library copies of all documents held by his Department on the negotiation of the Prisoner Transfer Agreement with Libya which have not previously been released. [16948]

Alistair Burt: My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister asked the Cabinet Secretary on 20 July to review papers held by the Government surrounding the decision to release Mr Al-Megrahi. The purpose of the review is to see if more documentation needs to be published to ensure the fullest possible explanation of the circumstances surrounding the decision. This review includes papers covering the negotiation of the Prisoner Transfer Agreement with Libya. The review is ongoing and the Cabinet Secretary aims to conclude this work as soon as possible.

North Korea: Asylum

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has had discussions with his Chinese counterpart on the forced repatriation of North Korean refugees. [16845]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We monitor this issue closely and last raised it with the Chinese Government during the UK-China Human Rights Dialogue in March. Following representations made by our embassy officials and the office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Beijing, in May, a family of four North Korean citizens were granted exit visas and allowed to leave China for their destination choice.

Russia and China: Broadcasting

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the resources allocated by the Government of *(a)* Russia and *(b)* China to the creation of broadcasting services which target western audiences. [17152]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We do not have official figures for these services. However, according to news reports, Russia Today cost in the region of $30 million to set up, had an operating budget of $60 million in its first year (2004-05) rising to a reported Rub3.6 billion (approx $150 million at the time) in 2008. Press reports estimate that the Chinese Government spend about $2.2 billion on CCTV, their international channel, which targets western and Chinese audiences.

Saudi Arabia: Exports

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he plans to take together with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills to increase British exports to Saudi Arabia. [14845]

Alistair Burt: The Government are strongly committed to improving commercial relations through the Gulf Initiative.

Our exports to Saudi Arabia were £4.8 billion last year and we want this to go on rising.

I will chair the next Two Kingdoms' Dialogue, which will focus on maximising co-operation in the education, healthcare and tourism sectors.

Shaiboub Arsal

John Woodcock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he *(a)* has made recent representations to the government of Egypt on the detention of Shaiboub William Arsal and *(b)* plans to make such representations. [16956]

Alistair Burt: The UK regularly raises human rights matters of concern with the Egyptian Government. Mr Arsal is one of over 10,000 prisoners in Egypt who is reported to be detained without a final sentence. In our view it is fairer and ultimately more effective, to address the common human rights concerns behind each of these cases, rather than to raise each case individually. For example, the UK supports the EU's €10 million project on the 'Support and Modernisation of Administration of Justice and Enhancement of Security' which is expected to reduce the backlog of cases in Egyptian courts. Given our overall approach, the Government currently have no plans to raise Mr Arsal's case with the Egyptian Government.

Tibet: Human Rights

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made recent representations to the *(a)* Central Tibetan Administration and *(b)* Chinese government on human rights in Tibet. [16574]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The British Government remain concerned about the human rights situation in Tibet. The Foreign Secretary raised the issue of Tibet and human rights with Foreign Minister Yang during his visit to China on 14 July. I also raised Tibet when I visited China last month.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 14 October 2010

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Telephone Tapping

Mr Watson: To ask the Attorney-General (1) what discussions he has had with the Director of Public Prosecutions on telephone hacking and blagging since his appointment; [17468]

(2) if he will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of his recent meeting with the Director of Public Prosecutions on telephone hacking and blagging. [17446]

The Attorney-General: I regularly meet with the Director of Public Prosecutions to discuss a variety of issues in my statutory rôle of superintendence of the CPS. It is not the practice of the AGO to disclose details of such meetings as was the case with previous Administrations.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Tuition Fees

20. **Gavin Shuker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effects on higher education participation among the poorest students of increases in tuition fees. [17276]

Mr Willetts: There are more students participating in HE than ever before, with record numbers from all backgrounds. This indicates that students are not deterred from participation, providing that there is a suitable offer of financial support in place to help those who need it.

The coalition agreement makes it clear that increasing social mobility and attracting more students from disadvantaged backgrounds are key criteria for our response to Lord Browne's recommendations on Higher Education Funding and Student Finance.

Anti-counterfeiting Trade Agreement

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the potential effect on individuals of the implementation of the draft Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement. [16576]

Mr Davey: The Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA) does not intend to create new intellectual property rights, laws or criminal offences in the UK or EU. As such, the implementation of ACTA should not directly impact individuals in the UK.

Business: Co-ownership

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many officials in his Department and its agencies have had training with an objective to develop knowledge of co-ownership structures. [17243]

Mr Prisk: Decisions are made locally on individuals' developmental needs and this information is not held centrally. This could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

I have approached the chief executives of the Insolvency Service, Companies House, the National Measurement Office, the Intellectual Property Office and the Skills Funding Agency and they will respond to the hon. Member directly.

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 14 October 2010:

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled 8 October 2010, UIN 17243 to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

No officials in Companies House have had training with an objective to develop knowledge of co-ownership structures.

Letter from Geoff Russell, dated 12 October 2010:

I am replying on behalf of the Skills Funding Agency to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 08 October 2010 (UIN 17243), to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills: how many officials in his Department and its agencies have had training with an objective to develop knowledge of co-ownership structures.

The Skills Funding Agency has given no training with an objective to develop knowledge of co-ownership structures.

Letter from John Alty, dated 13 October 2010:

I am responding in respect of the Intellectual Property Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 08/10/10, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The Intellectual Property Office has given no training with an objective to develop knowledge of co-ownership structures.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 12 October 2010:

The Secretary of State for Business Innovation and Skills has asked me to reply to your question how many officials in his Department and its agencies have had training with an objective to develop knowledge of co-ownership structures.

The Insolvency Service Executive Agency of the Department for Business; Innovation and Skills have had no staff who have had training with an objective to develop knowledge of co-ownership structures.

Letter from Peter Mason, dated 12 October 2010:

I am responding in respect of the National Measurement Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 8th October to the Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, asking how many officials have had training with an objective to develop knowledge of co-ownership structures.

To date, no members of NMO staff have had training specifically linked to developing knowledge of co-ownership structures.

Business: Government Assistance

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he has taken to reduce the administrative requirements on applicants of the enterprise finance guarantee scheme; and what steps he plans to take to improve the availability of seed capital for start-up businesses. [17404]

Mr Prisk: The time taken to process an application for an EFG backed loan is mainly determined by the internal processes of the lender concerned. There are relatively few additional administrative requirements for EFG compared with a normal loan. These primarily relate to ensuring EFG is used appropriately and that the relevant EU regulations on state aid are adhered to. Lenders have access to a web portal to determine EFG eligibility and approval of the loan guarantee. Overall, lenders confirm that an EFG loan application only takes two to three days longer than it might take to process a commercial loan.

Nonetheless, as speed and certainty is important for EFG lending decisions, this Department has worked with each of the main lenders, who account for over 97% of the SME lending market, to introduce a processing target of 20 working days for all major lenders participating in the EFG to provide certainty for businesses on how long their applications will take to process.

Seed capital in the form of equity is vital for start-up businesses where debt finance may not be the most appropriate form of finance and equity may be a more realistic proposition. Early stage venture capital is available for businesses with high growth potential and this Department provides a range of publicly supported funds to provide early stage finance, focused on the 'equity gap'.

The BIS Enterprise Capital Fund programme currently comprises nine venture capital funds with a Government commitment of more than £156 million for these funds. The emergency Budget announced an additional Enterprise Capital Fund of up to £37.5 million. Details can be found at the Capital for Enterprise Ltd website:

www.capitalforenterprise.gov.uk

These venture capital funds are suitable for high growth potential investments. These funds are complemented by a range of regionally commissioned funds including regional SME Venture Capital Loan Funds totalling around £550 million of commitments up to 2013. There are around 25 to 30 regional equity and loan funds currently (or imminently) active supporting seed, early stage and growth capital for SMEs, all underpinned by objectives to enhance regional business and economic performance along with broader social and regeneration outputs attached to European Reconstruction and Development Fund funding.

Business: Loans

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent representations he has received on access to finance for small businesses. [17259]

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent representations he has received on access to finance for small businesses. [17262]

Mr Prisk: The Government believe that improving access to finance is vital for small businesses. In response to our formal consultation on access to credit we received more than 170 representations and we will be responding shortly. In addition, the British Bankers Association yesterday published their taskforce report on business lending.

The report has 17 recommendations and the Government welcome the progress made by the taskforce.

Community Interest Companies

Chris White: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many community interest companies were started in *(a)* Warwick and Leamington constituency, *(b)* Warwickshire, *(c)* the West Midlands and *(d)* England in each of the last five years. [17428]

Mr Davey: The number of Community Interest Companies (CICs) that were started in *(a)* Warwick and Leamington constituency, *(b)* Warwickshire, *(c)* the West Midlands and *(d)* England in each of the last five years are as follows:

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Warwick and Leamington	0	0	0	0	1
Warwickshire	1	2	5	3	5
West Midlands	13	26	54	86	112
England	191	602	746	1,046	1,177

This statistical information is estimated using post code data provided in the current registered office addresses of CICs on the public register of companies.

Defence Equipment: Exports

John Glen: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment his Department has made of the security risks associated with the granting of open general export licenses for military goods. [17460]

Mr Prisk: Open general export licences (OGELs) have been a key part of the UK's export controls for many years. They permit the export of less sensitive items to less sensitive destinations and as such they allow the Government to maintain a robust licensing regime while minimising administrative burdens for legitimate and low risk exports. These risks are managed through careful definition of the goods and destinations; by the terms and conditions applied to each OGEL including, in some cases, prior approval of the export by the MOD; and by a comprehensive programme of on-site compliance audits. All OGELs are kept under review and they can be amended or withdrawn at any time.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* external advisers are working on the Browne review of higher education funding. [16672]

Mr Willetts: The review was supported by seven full-time civil servants seconded from the Government for the duration of the review. No external advisers have been employed by the review, although it has drawn on advice from a wide range of experts throughout its process, through events such as public hearings and calls for evidence.

Departmental Secondment

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether any officials working in his Department are on secondment from companies or organisations in the banking sector. [16674]

Mr Davey: As at 11 October the Department's record show that BIS currently has 27 secondees.

The Department does not record centrally the sectors from which secondees originate.

Export Credit Guarantees: Trinidad and Tobago

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether the Export Credits Guarantee Department has received an application in respect of the sale of offshore patrol vessels to Trinidad and Tobago; and if he will make a statement. [17432]

Mr Davey: ECGD has no such current application.

As reported in its annual review for 2007/08, ECGD did provide support that year for a contract awarded to VT Shipbuilding International Ltd for the supply of three offshore patrol vessels to the Ministry of National Security in Trinidad and Tobago.

Further Education: Finance

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 21 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 1-2WS, on further education investment, whether previous investment in capital programmes by further education colleges will be taken into account when allocating capital funding through the enhanced renewal grant. [17463]

Mr Hayes: In written ministerial statements on 8 September and 13 October, I informed the House that, after a robust and transparent assessment process, 154 colleges will receive up to £225,000 through a renewal grant of which 21 colleges will receive up to £1 million through an enhanced renewal grant.

Only those colleges that had received less than £5 million in LSC grant since 2001 were eligible to be considered for a grant under these schemes. Previous investment by the colleges, other than LSC funding, was not taken into account. Applications to the enhanced renewal grant were assessed against the existing condition of the college estate and its facilities; proposed benefits to learners; and how the projects would contribute to the regeneration of their local communities.

Higher Education and Student Finance Independent Review

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the cost to the public purse was of the Independent Review of Higher Educational Funding and Student Finance. [17457]

Mr Willetts: The review is yet to finalise its costs precisely, but we estimate that these will be around £120,000 in general administration and programme expenditure during the 11 months of its work, including the costs of research. There was also the cost of providing seven full-time staff who supported the review panel and who were seconded from the Government.

Higher Education: Overseas Students

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many international students graduated from English higher education institutions and remained in the UK for *(a)* employment and *(b)* further study in the latest period for which figures are available. [15826]

Mr Willetts: Information on the destinations of graduates six months after leaving is collected by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) via the Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) survey. Information is only collected for UK domiciled and other EU graduates. Not all graduates respond to the survey so there is a number whose circumstances after leaving are unknown.

The Home Office recently published a research report entitled "The Migrant Journey". This research tracked the behaviour of the cohort of students (185,600) entering the UK in 2004. At the end of 2009 approximately 7% (12,990) had been granted leave to remain in the UK to work and approximately 6% (11,140) were still studying.

The information for other EU graduates is in the following table.

Destinations of non-UK EU domiciled full-time first degree graduates from English HEIs remaining in the UK six months after graduation in 2008/09

Destination	*Number of graduates*	*Percentage of respondents*
UK employment only	1,425	19.6
Combination of work and study in UK	360	4.9
UK further study only	2,185	29.6
Total in UK employment or study	3,970	53.9
Other	3,395	46.1
Total DLHE respondents	7,365	100.0

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest five.
2. Employment location is taken from the question which asks which town or city respondents are working in.
3. Some graduates enter a combination of work and study and are listed in a separate row. Their location is based on their employment location.
4. Study location is taking from the institution providing further study.
5. 'Other' includes those who are in different categories in the DLHE survey, which includes work or further study (or a combination) outside of the UK, assumed to be unemployed, not available for employment or the 'other' category.
6. In 2008/09 there were 12,660 full-time first degree graduates from English HEIs who came from non-UK EU countries who were eligible to answer DLHE. 7,365 of these responded (58.2%).

Source:

Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education survey (DLHE), produced by HESA.

Higher Education: Per Capita Costs

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what his most recent estimate is of the average annual cost to the public purse of a university place; [16405]

(2) what his most recent estimate is of the annual cost to the public purse of a place in higher education for an *(a)* engineering and *(b)* medical student. [16406]

Mr Willetts: There is no published estimate of the overall average annual cost to the public purse of a university place due to differences in the definitions of which students are eligible for teaching grant and student support. However, estimates of expenditure per receiving student per year for each of these components are available separately:

Teaching expenditure

In academic year 2008/09 the average teaching grant expenditure per FTE funded student (both undergraduate and postgraduate) at institutions in England was around £4,200 per year. This grant is distributed to institutions by the Higher Education Funding Council for England according to the subject as well as a number of other criteria; the notional grants for each subject group are as follows:

Price group	*Description*	*Notional 2008/09 HEFCE undergraduate grant rate (£)*
A	The clinical stages of medicine and dentistry courses and veterinary science	14,600
B	Laboratory-based subjects (science, preclinical stages of medicine and dentistry, engineering and technology)	5,500
C	Subjects with a studio, laboratory or fieldwork element	3,900
D	All other subjects	2,700

Student support expenditure

In 2008/09 around 870,000 England-domiciled students at institutions in the UK were awarded student support in the form of grants and/or loans. In total £1.257 billion was received in grants at an average of £1,400 per student awarded student support. Maintenance and fee loans for these students totalled £4.698 billion, which would have an average budgetary cost[1] per student awarded student support of around £1,500. Robust student support data is not available at subject level.

[1] The budgetary cost represents the future cost to government of subsidising and writing off the loans issued.

Higher Education: Primary Education

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what funding his Department provides to promote engagement between universities and primary schools in *(a)* deprived communities and *(b)* other areas. [17053]

Mr Willetts: Higher education institutions work with schools in many ways to help prepare young learners for higher education and many use their own funds to establish links with primary schools. The Department does not provide specific funds to promote engagement between universities and primary schools but many Aimhigher partnerships work with primary schools in disadvantaged areas to raise awareness about higher education.

In April this year, the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) concluded a project with 11 Aimhigher partnerships outlining their work in brokering links between primary schools and higher education institutions. In addition, HEFCE transferred £30 million in 2009-10 from within the overall funding for teaching to help strengthen links between universities and schools.

Higher Education: Young People

Ian Swales: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many young people normally resident in Redcar constituency entered *(a)* higher education and *(b)* university in each of the last 13 years. [16542]

Mr Willetts: The numbers of young (aged under 21) undergraduate entrants from Redcar constituency to UK higher education institutions (universities and higher education colleges) are shown in the table.

Figures are taken from the Higher Education Statistics Agency Student Record and are provided for the academic years to 1996/97 to 2008/09. Data for the 2009/10 academic year will become available from January 2011.

The Department does not hold constituency-level data for students studying higher education courses at further education colleges.

Young[1] undergraduate entrants[2] from Redcar constituency[3], UK higher education institutions[4], academic years 1996/97 to 2008/09

Academic year	*Number*
1996/97	285
1997/98	315
1998/99	275
1999/2000	340
2000/01	340
2001/02	345
2002/03	345
2003/04	360
2004/05	375
2005/06	370
2006/07	420
2007/08	460
2008/09	490

[1] Young refers to entrants aged under 21.

[2] Covers entrants to both full-time and part-time courses.

[3] The table does not include entrants where the constituency of the student cannot be established due to missing or invalid postcode information.

[4] Excludes the Open university due to inconsistencies in their coding of entrants across the time series.

Notes:

Figures are based on a HESA snapshot population as at 1 December and are rounded to the nearest five. *Source:* Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Student Record.

Industry: Women

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what steps he plans to take to increase the representation of women in non-traditional industries; [16608]

(2) what assistance other than that provided through the Women and Work Sector Skills Pathway Initiative his Department provides to help women employees progress in industries in which they are under-represented. [16616]

Mr Hayes: We believe that skills are essential to enabling people to find and keep jobs, progress in work, and contribute to stronger and more cohesive communities. BIS' commitment to ensuring equitable access for women to skills training, sustainable employment, and full engagement in non-traditional sectors enforces that view.

BIS delivers a range of policies and programmes, other that the Women and Work Sector Pathways Initiative, that help deliver this vision. These include:

An enhanced information, advice and guidance service for adults, offer high quality personalised information about a range of training and support;

Providing employability skills to those with the greatest skills needs;

Funding for the UK Resource Centre for Women (UKRC) in Science, Engineering and Technology, supporting the delivery of the strategy for Women in Science;

STEM Ambassadors encouraging young people to pursue studies in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM);

The National Apprenticeship Service works with Connexions, Next Steps, local authorities, Job Centre Plus and other key partners to increase the number and diversity of people starting apprenticeships and progressing to the next apprenticeship.

We are working with the National Apprenticeship Service to explore new ways of encouraging more women into atypical careers through apprenticeships. Pilots have been designed to increase the ability to tackle the broader issues of under representations in apprenticeships, including gender segregation and access to apprenticeships for individuals with a learning difficulty or disability. Equality issues will also be covered in the equalities impact assessment which will underpin our forthcoming skills strategy.

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how many women have received assistance from the Women and Work Sector Skills Pathway Initiative since its inception; [16615]

(2) what estimate he made of the proportion of women who have taken part in the Women and Work Sector Skills Pathway Initiative since its inception who subsequently gained employment; [16617]

(3) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Women and Work Sector Pathways Initiative. [16609]

Mr Hayes: Since the Women and Work Sector Pathways Initiative began in 2006 until the end of March 2010, 16,736 women have completed the programme. Around another 5,000 will be helped in the financial year 2010-11.

Only one project has involved unemployed women. In 2009-10 and 2010-11 GoSkills ran a project to train unemployed women as bus drivers. Of the 51 women who participated, 20 have gone into direct employment following the training. In 2010-11 37 women are expected to complete this training with eight of them having already starting work.

Phases 1 and 2 of Women and Work have been evaluated by external companies IFF, PRI and BMG Research. The phase 2 evaluation quotes a 96% employer and 90% participant satisfaction rate. 51% of employers had not previously engaged with their SSC and 40% of participants had never received off the job training before. 5% of participants were working for different employers at the time they were surveyed compared to an average UK employer turnover rate of 15.7% in 2009. The evaluation is available on the UK Commission for Employment and Skills website at:

http://www.ukces.org.uk/our-work/qualifications/woman-and-work/

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how many women participated in the women and work sector skills pathway initiative in the North East; [16737]

(2) which industrial sectors participated in the women and work sector skills pathway initiative in the North East; [16738]

(3) which industrial sector had the highest number of *(a)* women and *(b)* employers participating in the women and work sector skills pathway initiative in the North East. [16739]

Mr Hayes: In phase 3 of the Women and Work Sector Pathways (March 2009 to April 2010) 124 women and 31 employers participated in the North East. Of these Lantra, the SSC for land-based and environmental industries, had the highest number of both women and employers participating. A breakdown of women and employers by Sector Skills Councils is given in the following table. No further breakdown by industry is available and information by region was not kept in phases 1 and 2:

Sector Skills Council	*Participants*	*Employers*
Semta (science, engineering and manufacturing technologies)	32	2
Skills for Justice (justice and community safety)	1	1
The Institute of the Motor Industry IMI (automotive retail)	34	3
People 1st (hospitality, leisure, travel and tourism)	2	1
Lantra (land-based and environmental)	37	20
ConstructionSkills	1	[1]0
Asset Skills (facilities management, housing, property, planning, cleaning and parking)	[1]0	2
Skillfast (Fashion and Textiles) from 1 April 2010 fashion and textiles became part of Skillset	17	2
Total	124	31

[1] Regions where people live and work are sometimes different.

Innovation

Stephen Mosley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to ensure that Britain's science and innovation sector contributes to economic growth. [17263]

Mr Willetts: Science and Innovation are critical to our future prosperity and are strongly supported by this Government. As part of the spending review, we are continuing to strengthen the way we support science and innovation and improving the way they contribute to economic growth. We will set out our strategy for economic growth in a White Paper later this year.

News International

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have had with executives of (i) News International Limited and (ii) News Corporation since their appointment. [16718]

Mr Davey: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills had a short introductory phone call with James Murdoch of News Corporation on 15 June 2010 and my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Culture, Communications and Creative Industries met with Rebekah Brooks of News International on 12 July 2010. None of the other Ministers in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has held meetings with executives of (i) News International Ltd or (ii) News Corporation since their appointment.

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what meetings Ministers in his Department have had with *(a)* Rebekah Brooks, *(b)* James Murdoch and *(c)* representatives of News International since 12 May; and if he will make a statement. [17371]

Mr Davey: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills had a short introductory phone call with James Murdoch on 15 June 2010 and my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Culture, Communications and Creative Industries met with Rebekah Brooks of News International on 12 July 2010. None of the other Ministers in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has held meetings with *(a)* Rebekah Brooks, *(b)* James Murdoch and *(c)* representatives of News International since 12 May 2010.

Overseas Trade: Philippines

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many officials in his Department work on the promotion of trade between the United Kingdom and the Philippines; and what the equivalent figure was in *(a)* 1983, *(b)* 1987 and *(c)* each year between 1998 and 2008. [17363]

Mr Prisk: UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) leads on trade and investment promotion with the Philippines. UKTI's parent Departments are the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. Staffing figures for 1983, 1987 and for each year since 1998 are not available.

Currently there are seven full-time UKTI staff in the Philippines (supported by the British ambassador's time, as appropriate) and eight staff covering South East Asia, including the Philippines, in our International Group in London.

Research: Manpower

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent estimate he has made of the number of people who are employed in scientific research projects which receive Government funding. [16409]

Mr Willetts: The Department for Business Innovation and Skills provides funding to the research councils which in turn provide funding for research projects.

The research councils estimate that they support 9,000 scientific postdoctoral researchers (full-time equivalents) working on grants in higher education institutions, and about 4,000 researchers in research council institutes.

Skills Funding Agency: Information Officers

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many staff are employed by the Skills Funding Agency to work on *(a)* communications and *(b)* public information campaigns. [17067]

Mr Hayes: The information is as follows:

(a) Staff working on communications

	Number
Skills Funding Agency	39
Information Management Services	4
Total	43

(b) Staff employed under public information campaigns

	Number
Skills Funding Agency	5

The National Apprenticeship Service employs 18 staff to work on both communications and public campaigns across England.

Sunday Trading

Mark Menzies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent representations he has received on Sunday trading legislation. [17324]

Mr Prisk: Since the beginning of May 2010 the Department has received four representations by correspondence; one from a retail organisation and three from individuals, two of which came via their Members of Parliament. The Department has also met with representatives of local authorities to discuss the application of the Sunday Trading Act 1994 and has responded to six parliamentary questions and a question to the Deputy Prime Minister from the "Student Room" website on the subject.

Unemployment: Graduates

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of people who have obtained a degree in the last five years who are *(a)* unemployed and *(b)* employed but earning a salary below the £15,000 student loan repayment threshold. [15824]

Mr Willetts: The information is not available.

Information on the destinations of the 2004/05 cohort of higher education (HE) graduates was collected via the Longitudinal Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education (Long DLHE) survey. Results from this were published by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) in 2009. No survey of the 2005/06 cohort was taken, though a cohort of students who graduated in 2006/07 will be surveyed in November this year. The results of this are due to be published in 2011.

From the report, 2.9% of the UK domiciled full-time first degree graduates were assumed to be unemployed three-and-a-half years after graduating. Of those who were in full-time employment in the UK and declared a salary, 8.6% declared a salary which was below £15,000 per annum.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Allotments

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent progress he has made on encouraging local authorities to provide space for allotments. [16915]

Andrew Stunell: The provision of allotments is the responsibility of local authorities. Allotment legislation places a duty on local authorities (except for inner London boroughs) to provide allotments where they consider that there is a demand for them in their area.

Government are supporting innovative approaches to making land available for community use, including food growing. Community landbanking and "meanwhile licences/leases", being developed by the Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens and the Development Trusts Association respectively, could be tools that the community can use to get more access to land for a variety of green space uses.

Circulator Pumps: Energy

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department plans to take steps to inform circulator pump fitters of the inclusion of circulator pumps with an A-G energy label in Part L of the Building Regulations. [16766]

Andrew Stunell: CLG published four revised Part L Approved Documents and two new Building Services Compliance Guides in April 2010, containing practical guidance on complying with the revised requirements of Part L of the Building Regulations that came into force on 1 October 2010. The two Buildings Services Compliance Guides specifically recommend that circulator pumps should be labelled in accordance with the Europump Labelling Scheme and have a rating in the range A to G.

There are no plans to specifically inform circulator pump fitters about the recommendations on circulator pumps, but CLG officials have recently supported a number of dissemination and training events for industry in relation to the 2010 Part L revisions.

Community Assets

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he is taking to support community ownership of assets. [17246]

Andrew Stunell: The Government are funding the Asset Transfer Unit (ATU) to promote best practice across England and provide advice and expertise on matters relating to asset transfer to communities. The ATU is also supporting 20 local authorities and their community sector partners to develop asset transfer strategies and projects through the final year of the Advancing Assets for Communities demonstration programme. The ATU has drawn on local experience and the expertise of specialist partner organisations to develop good practice material for communities and local authorities, which is available at:

www.atu.org.uk

Recognising that access to finance is crucial to a growth in community ownership of assets, the Government are also funding the £70 million Communitybuilders programme which aims to support neighbourhood based community organisations to acquire or improve assets and extend their services through a mix of loans and grants. We are also supporting greater use of community shares as an innovative way to attract extra investment, increase community empowerment and grow community enterprises.

In addition the Government are determined to put communities in a better position to respond to the closure of facilities that are important to them, and to the potential offered by redundant buildings which they have plans to transform as community hubs. We will be introducing proposals in the Localism Bill in November.

Community Relations

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent contribution his Department has made to the Government's agenda for tackling extremism. [16707]

Andrew Stunell: The coalition Government are committed to tackling extreme, intolerant and divisive groups. My Department is taking a leading role in developing the programme for challenging extremism, as part of CLG's wider work to develop the Government's approach to integration. My Department is also contributing to the Home Office-led review of the Prevent strand of the counter-terrorism strategy.

Empty Dwelling Management Orders

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* interim and *(b)* final empty dwelling management orders have been (i) applied for and (ii) made to date. [17083]

Andrew Stunell: To date, 43 applications for interim empty dwelling management orders have been made to the Residential Property Tribunal Service, of which 36 have been approved. Local authorities do not need any further approval to make final empty dwelling management orders and data are not collected on them.

Housing: Carbon Emissions

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what definition of a zero-carbon home his Department uses. [16590]

Andrew Stunell: My right hon. Friend the Minister for Housing and Local Government set out the Government's approach to zero carbon homes in his written statement to Parliament of 27 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 83WS.

Housing: Sustainable Development

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has for the future of *(a)* the Code for Sustainable Homes and *(b)* Part L of the Building Regulations. [16589]

Andrew Stunell: The 2010 revisions to the Code for Sustainable Homes are expected to be published shortly. Thereafter the Government plan to review the future role of the code, in the context of our aims to simplify the overall system of new build standards.

The Government have committed to continuous improvements in the energy efficiency of new housing as part of the Zero Carbon Homes agenda, and are considering their approach for new non-domestic buildings. In this context, we are scoping work for further changes to Part L in 2013.

Voluntary Organisations: Finance

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding his Department allocated to voluntary groups in Coventry in each year since 2005. [16658]

Andrew Stunell: The Department's records do not hold information about grant payments to the voluntary sector by geographical area so the information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, as part of the new Government's transparency initiative, the Department has published grant spending data, which can be found at:

www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/spendinggrantdata0910

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Government Olympic Executive

Andrew Bingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what expenditure the Government Olympic Executive incurred on staff salaries in each of the last five years. [15538]

Hugh Robertson: In each of the last five years, the amount spent on staff salaries in the Government Olympic Executive (GOE) was:

	£ million
2005-06	[1]1.091
2006-07	2.765
2007-08	4.669
2008-09	6.951
2009-10	8.418

[1] Part year.

The amount spent on salaries reflects the increase in the number of civil servants (full-time equivalents (FTEs)) working in the GOE, from approximately 30 FTEs in 2005-06 (not a full year) to 92.9 FTEs in 2009-10.

From 2007-08 these figures have included two key senior staff who were appointed on fixed term contracts ending in 2012 and whose remuneration reflects their extensive experience and the unique challenge of delivering the Olympics to a fixed deadline. Details of their remuneration have been published in the departmental Annual Reports and Accounts for each year since.

This planned increase in staffing (a) reflects the development of GOE's role during this period—including overseeing the entire Olympic project, integrating the work of multiple delivery bodies, and driving through savings—some £700 million to date and keeping within the £9.3 billion public sector funding provision; (b) is a planned response to the expected growth in work to deliver the Government's commitments and guarantees, as 2012 approaches; and (c) is consistent with GOE's staffing and resource plan for 2008-09 to 2010-11, which was agreed early in 2008.

Andrew Bingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much the Government Olympic Executive has paid in bonuses to its employees in each of the last five years. [15585]

Hugh Robertson: The Government Olympic Executive (GOE) makes non-consolidated performance payments to its employees for two purposes: (a) in-year non-consolidated performance payments to reward outstanding contributions in particularly demanding tasks or situations; and (b) year-end non-consolidated performance payments to reward highly successful performance over a whole year. In both cases they help drive high performance.

Non-consolidated performance payments are an integral element of the reward package for staff, have to be re-earned each year and do not add to future pay bill costs (e.g. pensions).

Details of both in-year and year-end non-consolidated performance payments for GOE are as follows:

	£
2005-06	4,200
2006-07	21,341
2007-08	72,791
2008-09	141,793
2009-10	213,916

From 2007-08, these figures have included two key senior staff in GOE, who were appointed on fixed term contracts ending in 2012 and whose remuneration reflects their extensive experience and the unique challenge of delivering the Olympics to a fixed deadline. Details of their remuneration have been published in the departmental Annual Reports and Accounts for each year since.

Andrew Bingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what expenditure the Government Olympic Executive has incurred on consultants in each of the last five years. [15619]

Hugh Robertson: The Government Olympic Executive's (GOE) expenditure on consultancy costs is:

	£
2005-06	666,000
2006-07	721,000
2007-08	432,000
2008-09	331,000
2009-10	547,000

These figures include expenditure by the GOE's predecessor, the Olympic Games Unit. All figures include VAT (where appropriate).

GOE is overseeing the entire Olympic project, integrating the work of multiple delivery bodies, driving out savings and ensuring the games is delivered within the £9.3 billion public sector funding provision. GOE's purchase of consultancy services is a planned response to the need to deliver the Government's commitments and guarantees. The consultants have provided valuable short-term support, skills and expertise which has enabled GOE to, among other things:

identify how the games will act as a catalyst for the regeneration of the East End;

develop and publish a clear Legacy Action Plan;

develop arrangements for the delivery of the physical and sporting legacy;

ensure that the necessary assurance processes are in place;

ensure that all elements of the programme are integrated efficiently;

from 2009-10, undertake tracking research on public attitudes to the Olympics and to understand knowledge levels and concerns of residents in the five host boroughs (as we get closer to the games it is essential for the Government to understand the views of the general public and the residents of the five boroughs).

Public Service Broadcasting

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether his Department has requested legal advice on the funding of S4/C in the last two years. [16782]

Mr Vaizey: DCMS, like other Government Departments, seeks legal advice where it is appropriate to do so. However, the Department does not comment in relation to a particular circumstance whether or not it has sought or received any such advice.

Sports: Females

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps he plans to take to increase women's participation in sport. [16610]

Hugh Robertson: In working with the sport national governing bodies (NGBs) on their whole sport plans (WSP), Sport England emphasises the need to encourage women and girls to participate in all sports.

While Sport England has not set specific targets for NGBs on increasing participation among particular groups of people, funding levels for sports were in part assessed on the strength of their strategic plans to deliver on increased participation among women, black and minority ethnic groups, and disabled people.

In addition to the core (WSP) funding, Sport England is investing £10 million in an Active Women initiative. This funding is aimed at helping women in disadvantaged communities and women caring for children under 16. Successful applicants will demonstrate the ability to increase participation for these two groups.

For the NGBs, developing the girls' and women's game, disability sport, and reaching out to diverse communities is not an optional extra but a vital part of what they are required to do. If any sport does not accept this challenge, Sport England will switch their funding to those that do.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Cadets

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what *(a)* financial and *(b)* administrative assistance his Department offers to cadets undertaking vocational qualifications in (i) England, (ii) Wales, (iii) Scotland and (iv) Northern Ireland; [17479]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with cadet forces on the completion of vocational qualifications by cadets in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* Northern Ireland in 2011-12. [17480]

Mr Robathan: I discussed this issue with the cadet forces during the summer of 2010 and while I strongly encourage the attainment of qualifications, the Ministry of Defence does not provide financial assistance for cadets to undertake educational (and therefore also vocational) qualifications. In England, funding is made available through the Young People's Learning Agency (historically the Learning Skills Council); for Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, funding for vocational qualifications for cadets is a devolved matter.

Cadets have access to a Business and Technology Education Council (BTEC) Officer nominated for their unit, who liaises with the cadets and provides administrative support throughout the period of their qualification attainment.

Armed Forces: Housing

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 13 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 727W, on the armed forces: housing, into what categories each call received in respect of service family accommodation in 2009 was allocated; and how many such calls were classified as *(a)* urgent, *(b)* non-urgent and *(c)* other. [16977]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 13 October 2010]:* All work orders arising from calls to the relevant Helpdesk are classed as one of three categories: Emergency, Urgent or Routine.

The number of Emergency, Urgent and Routine works orders raised during 2009 are shown in the following table:

	Emergency	*Urgent*	*Routine*	*Total*
England and Wales	42,537	59,921	124,431	226,889
Scotland	1,618	3,077	10,729	15,424
Northern Ireland	1,389	4,761	4,998	11,148

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has made an estimate of the change in the level of carbon dioxide emissions from his Department since May 2010; and what steps he plans to take to meet his Department's target of reducing such emissions by 10 per cent. by May 2011. [16806]

Mr Robathan: The 10% saving initiative is limited to the civil element of the Defence estate with a baseline of 62,799 tonnes of CO_2, for 2009-10. The estimated emissions to the end of August are approximately 22,000 tonnes CO_2. Noting that these figures include estimated data where accurate bills are not available, and that it covers the spring/summer months, the Ministry of Defence believes it is on course to meet the 10% reduction target.

All MOD sites within the 10% reduction target have submitted plans to reduce emissions with general measures being considered such as: establishing core hours for heating/cooling offices; encouraging cleaning during office hours; regular walk-round surveys; not heating above 19C or cooling below 24C; revising server room cooling temperatures; and eliminating unnecessary internal/external lighting.

Departmental Empty Property

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the estimated monetary value is of each vacant *(a)* building and *(b)* parcel of land owned by his Department in each region. [16252]

Mr Robathan: Land or buildings which are temporarily vacant may not be surplus to longer term requirements. Where a site is determined to be surplus it is disposed of as quickly as possible. The current list of the sites in disposal together with those earmarked for future disposal is available in the Library of the House.

It is not possible to give the estimated monetary value of each vacant building or parcel of land, as this information is not held. Given the size of the estate, such market valuations would be expensive to commission and require frequent updating to allow for changing market conditions and other factors. Asset valuations of major defence sites based on their existing use are included in the National Asset Register and can be found at:

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+/http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/8/D/nar2007_chapter7.pdf

Market valuations are usually obtained only prior to a disposal and their disclosure could prejudice commercial interests.

Departmental Work Experience

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many interns his Department has engaged in the last 12 months; and how many were *(a)* unpaid, *(b)* remunerated with expenses only and *(c)* paid a salary. [17217]

Mr Robathan: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Patrol Craft

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the future of the P2000 class patrol vessel fleet; and if he will make a statement. [17450]

Nick Harvey: Decisions on the future structure of the Royal Navy are being taken forward as part of the Strategic Defence and Security Review.

Trident

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the location is of each Royal Navy submarine operational berth in service in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* overseas. [17300]

Nick Harvey: The locations of the in service operational berths for Royal Navy submarines in the UK and overseas are as follows:

Barrow
Loch Ewe
Loch Goil
Plymouth
Portland Port
Portsmouth
River Clyde estuary
Southampton.

Overseas:

Gibraltar
Falkland Islands
Diego Garcia.

There are a further 25 operational berths available overseas to Royal Navy submarines but I am withholding the location as disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness and security of our armed forces.

EDUCATION

Building Schools for the Future Programme: North East

Pat Glass: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) if he will estimate the likely monetary value of compensation claims made by construction companies consequent on the cancellation of the contracts under the Building Schools for the Future programme in *(a)* North West Durham constituency and *(b)* the North East; [11739]

(2) if he will estimate the likely effect on the number of construction jobs in *(a)* North West Durham constituency and *(b)* the North East of the cancellation of the Building Schools for the Future programme. [11776]

Mr Gibb: Where there are contractual obligations on local authorities in respect of the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme, they will be honoured. Where no contract has been finalised and signed, or no firm agreement to build a further wave of schools where an agreement with a local education partnership is already in place, there will be no compensation payments to be made. We are not aware of any compensation claims having been made to date; therefore no estimate has been made of the monetary value of such claims made by construction companies consequent on the decisions over BSF in *(a)* North West Durham constituency and *(b)* the North East.

The effects of ending the BSF programme on the construction industry were considered by the Secretary of State in coming to his decision although not specifically on the number of construction jobs in *(a)* North West Durham constituency and *(b)* the North East.

Departmental Contracts

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the monetary value is of contracts his Department has awarded to each *(a)* management consultancy and *(b)* IT company since 7 May 2010. [16188]

Tim Loughton: The Department has not awarded a contract to a management consultancy company since 7 May 2010 but there have been some contracts awarded to IT companies and the monetary value of those contracts were as follows:

IT company	*Monetary value of the contract (£)*
Actica Consulting Ltd	159,912.50
Blazie	7,507.00
CCI Group	9,776.10
Cesg	304.00
Comms Express	457.70
Cubelogic Solutions	26,840
Ultimate Locks Ltd	2,280.00
SoftCat Ltd	23,123.88

Departmental Empty Property

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the estimated monetary value is of each vacant *(a)* building and *(b)* parcel of land owned by his Department in each region. [16251]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education does not own any vacant property or land. It does have a number of vacant leasehold properties. However, there is no requirement for the Department to have these properties valued so we do not hold the information required to respond to this request.

Departmental ICT

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education which IT contracts awarded by his Department and its predecessors in the last five years have been abandoned; and what the monetary value of each such contract was. [12709]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education has not abandoned any IT contracts.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if his Department will take steps to assess the effects on *(a)* equality of incomes, *(b)* equality of assets and *(c)* equality of access to services of measures relating to its expenditure under consideration in the Spending Review. [16359]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education will ensure the relevant equality considerations are taken in to account in the context of expenditure under consideration in the spending review, in compliance with our obligations under the Sex Discrimination Act 1975, the Race Relations Act 1976, and the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.

Free Schools

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how many expressions of interest in becoming a free school the New School Network has received in *(a)* Doncaster and *(b)* Don Valley to date; [10717]

(2) how many independent schools have submitted *(a)* expressions of interest in and *(b)* formal proposals on becoming a free school. [10714]

Mr Gibb: New Schools Network (NSN) does not receive expressions of interest. People can, however, enter their details on NSN's website for further information on free schools.

The Department has not received any free schools proposals from the Don Valley area, but has received one proposal from Doncaster local authority area. So far 45 independent schools have submitted formal proposals to become free schools. To date one has been approved to progress to the business stage.

GCE A-level

Mark Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the proportion of pupils who took GCSEs in 2010 who are studying A-levels *(a)* in England and *(b)* in Milton Keynes. [15611]

Mr Gibb: Information on students registered for courses beginning in September 2010 is not yet available. The most up-to-date estimates available are based on those who completed year 11 in 2008. These show that both in England as a whole and in Milton Keynes, 44% of pupils who attended maintained schools in year 11 in 2007/08 were studying A/AS levels in 2008/09. The source of these estimates is the Department for Education's matched administrative data.

National Curriculum Tests

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the effect on the national average achieved in standard assessment tests in 2009-10 of industrial action by teaching unions. [7225]

Mr Gibb: Results from the 2010 Key Stage 2 National Curriculum Tests are available at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000949/index.shtml

This includes an assessment of the effect on the national average achieved in the tests in 2009-10 of industrial action by teaching unions.

Schools: Libraries

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) whether he has provided guidance to *(a)* local education authorities and *(b)* head teachers on his Department's policy on the future of school libraries; and if he will make a statement; [14805]

(2) how many local authorities with education departments have a school library service; and if he will make a statement. [14820]

Mr Gibb: The Department does not provide guidance to local authorities and head teachers on school libraries and does not routinely collect information on school library services provided by local authorities.

While the provision of a school library is not compulsory, a good school library is a valuable resource for pupils and teachers. We therefore welcome the new report from the Commission set up by the National Literacy Trust and Museums, Libraries and Archives, "School Libraries: A Plan for Improvement", on the future role for school libraries and schools library services. The report includes recommendations to interested groups, in particular to local authorities and to head teachers.

The Department agrees that good school libraries and school library services can make a positive contribution to children's literacy, and that schools are well placed to identify the contribution which school libraries can make to meet their educational needs.

Science: GCE A-level

Mark Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the proportion of pupils who took science subjects at GCSE level in 2010 who are studying a science subject at A-level. [15610]

Mr Gibb: Information on students registered for courses beginning in September 2010 is not yet available. The most up-to-date estimates available are based on those who started studying AS levels in September 2009. In England 524,000 pupils in the mainstream maintained sector were entered for at least one GCSE in a science subject at the end of Key Stage 4 in 2009, and 113,000 students (in both maintained schools and colleges) enrolled on at least one AS level in a science subject in autumn 2009. Therefore we estimate that 22% of pupils who took science at GCSE level in 2009 are studying a science subject at AS level in 2009/10[1].

[1] Assumes that all learners studying science at AS level in 2009/10 were part of the cohort entered for GCSE science in the previous year.

Teachers: Recruitment

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he plans to take to encourage recruitment of experienced staff to schools which have received poor Ofsted ratings. [10064]

Mr Gibb: Recruitment of teachers other than trainees is largely a matter for schools, who are best placed to make decisions about their particular requirements. The School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document (STPCD), which contains the statutory pay and conditions of employment for teachers in maintained schools in England and Wales, includes a number of pay flexibilities to support recruitment and retention, which may be used to attract experienced staff where appropriate.

The Government are also committed to introducing a pupil premium for disadvantaged children. It will be for head teachers and school governors to decide how to use the premium to meet the needs of disadvantaged children in their schools, and this might include using flexibilities in the pay system to attract more experienced staff. Ministers are determined to make teaching a more attractive profession for teachers in all schools, by removing bureaucracy, trusting teachers to get on with their job and taking measures to tackle behaviour and discipline in schools. These include strengthening teachers' powers to maintain good behaviour in the classroom, removing the bureaucratic burden on schools when giving detentions, and giving teachers the strongest possible protection from false allegations. The Government will announce further measures to reduce bureaucracy during the autumn, as Ministers engage with teachers and frontline staff on their plans to give them more power and remove the form-filling and bureaucracy that takes them away from the classroom.

The Government have announced already their plan to fund a considerable expansion in the Teach First programme, which has been very successful in bringing hundreds of high quality teachers into schools in the most deprived areas. There will now be Teach First teachers working in one third of all challenging schools right across the country, including some of the most challenging primary schools.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Sequestration

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what progress has been made in the establishment of four carbon capture and storage demonstration projects. [17111]

Charles Hendry: The Government confirmed their intention to support four commercial scale, full chain, CCS demonstration projects in the coalition programme.

The competition for the first of these projects is progressing. The two bidders (consortiums led by Scottish Power and E.On) are half-way through their Front-End Engineering and Design (FEED) studies.

DECC have recently completed a market sounding process with key stakeholders to help inform the design of the programme and the development of the selection process for the additional projects. It is intended to launch a call for proposals by the end of the year.

Circulator Pumps: Energy

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the *(a)* carbon dioxide and *(b)* energy savings consequent on the inclusion of circulator pumps with an A-G energy label in Part L of the Buildings Regulations in each of the next five years. [16765]

Gregory Barker: The Department has not estimated the carbon and energy benefits of A to G labelled circulator pumps in Part L.

The benefits are influenced by the actual circulator efficiency and the number of running hours and this would be bespoke to each installation. From 2013, under Regulation 641/2009 the eco-design requirements for glandless standalone circulators, which implements Directive 2005/32/EC, new circulators will have to have an energy efficiency index of not more than 0.27, which is equivalent to an 'A' rating. This reduces to 0.23 from 2015.

Electricity Generation

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department's plans for electricity market reform will include proposals for further requirements on Ofgem to deliver renewable energy objectives; and when he expects to announce his plans for the future regulation of the electricity market. [17012]

Charles Hendry: The Government, in line with the coalition agreement, have commissioned the Committee on Climate Change to consider the level of ambition for renewables for the period beyond 2020. They are due to produce a final report in April 2011.

The Annual Energy Statement explained that the Electricity Market Reform consultation will be published in autumn 2010 with a White Paper in spring 2011.

Fuel Poverty: West Midlands

Chris White: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate he has made of the number and proportion of households in *(a)* Warwick and Leamington constituency, *(b)* Warwickshire and *(c)* the West Midlands which are in fuel poverty. [17427]

Gregory Barker: In 2006, the most recent year for which sub-regional figures are available, there were around 6,600 (14%) fuel poor households in the Warwick and Leamington constituency and 29,000 (13%) in the county of Warwickshire.

In 2008, there were around 500,000 (23%) fuel poor households in the west midlands.

Natural Gas: Storage

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he or officials of his Department have met representatives of Halite Energy Group on Canatxx since his appointment. [17340]

Charles Hendry: Neither I, nor my ministerial colleagues have met with Halite since my appointment. Officials have met Halite on one occasion.

I have a meeting scheduled with representatives of the Halite Energy Group for 2 November (after our forthcoming meeting), which officials will also attend.

Offshore Industry

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what timetable he has set for publication of his safety review of the UK oil and gas industry. [17114]

Charles Hendry: As stated in the Annual Energy Statement, a review of the UK's offshore oil and gas regulatory approach will be carried out as soon as the more precise and detailed findings from the gulf of Mexico incident investigations have been released. The timing for completion of our review will be dependent on when the US Administration publish their report into the incident (currently anticipated early 2011).

Renewable Energy

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his policy is on *(a)* the creation of new and *(b)* Government assistance for existing manufacturing centres for marine renewable energy. [17013]

Charles Hendry: In the coalition agreement the Government have committed to introducing measures to encourage marine energy. We are currently working up proposals on marine energy, including how the development of marine energy parks can contribute to the development of the sector, and will make announcements on this in due course.

The UK is well placed to benefit from the expansion of the offshore wind industry. We have strong research and development, engineering, technology and manufacturing capabilities. We also have a skilled work force and excellent companies that are ready to diversify into this new market.

Sizewell B Power Station: Safety

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what projects the licensee of Sizewell B undertook by agreement with the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) *(a)* in response to recommendations of the periodic safety review 2005 and *(b)* since the periodic safety review 2005; what timetable was set for completion of this work; and on what dates each project was completed to a standard approved by the HSE. [16894]

Charles Hendry: The purpose of a periodic safety review (PSR) is to establish the performance of a licensed nuclear plant against the safety case approved by the

Health and Safety Executive's Nuclear Directorate (HSE ND), and to identify any improvements that may be necessary. It is a condition of a nuclear site licence that an operator of a nuclear facility conducts a PSR for that facility at least every 10 years.

British Energy Generation Ltd completed a PSR for the Sizewell B nuclear power station at the end of 2003. HSE ND assessed the PSR and advised British Energy Generation Ltd of its findings in January 2005. HSE ND's assessment report was published on HSE's website in June 2006.

The programme of work arising from the PSR contained projects proposed by British Energy Generation Ltd and actions identified by HSE ND in its assessment of the review. The programme consisted of 234 separate work items for the company, of which 231 have been addressed to HSE ND's satisfaction. While technically challenging, the remaining three actions are of relatively low safety significance.

The key change made because of the 2005 PSR is that British Energy Generation Ltd put in place improvements to the effectiveness of its safety management systems at the Sizewell B nuclear power station.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Departmental Drinking Water

Nick de Bois: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much her Department has spent on bottled water in each year since 2008. [16875]

Richard Benyon: It has been the policy of DEFRA and its executive agencies since March 2007 that bottled water will not be served at any meetings or lunches, and that tap water only will be supplied. No expenditure has been identified.

Marine Management Organisation: Manpower

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* full-time staff, *(b)* part-time staff and *(c)* consultants are employed by the Marine Management Organisation in (i) Newcastle and (ii) elsewhere; and how many employees of each type had been transferred from London to Newcastle in the last 12 months. [16651]

Richard Benyon: The information is given in the following tables.

	Newcastle	*Elsewhere*
Full-time	128	95
Part-time	2	16
Consultants	1	0
Total	131	111

	Transferred to Newcastle
Full-time	11
Part-time	0
Consultants	0
Total	11

National Wildlife Crime Unit: Finance

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans she has for funding of the UK National Wildlife Crime Unit in the next three years; and if she will make a statement. [16556]

Richard Benyon: Many Government Departments will have reduced budgets in the coming years, as part of the Government's drive to reduce the country's budget deficit. I very much appreciate the value of the work of the National Wildlife Crime Unit but cannot make any commitment to its future funding until the outcome of the comprehensive spending review is known.

Special Areas of Conservation

Stephen Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in respect of each proposed *(a)* new and *(b)* extension to a (i) Special Protection Area and (ii) Special Area of Conservation, on what date (A) the departmental brief was received from Natural England, (B) public consultation was initiated for the proposal and (C) Natural England submitted a recommendation on the public consultation; what the designation status is of each such proposal; and if she will make a statement. [17236]

Richard Benyon: The following table comprises those marine and terrestrial sites in England for which designation proposals have been made under the EU habitats or birds directives and where the designation process has not been completed.

Site	*SAC/SPA*	*Date brief received from NE*	*Public consultation commenced*	*Final recommendations to DEFRA*	*Designation status*
Inner Dowsing, Race Bank and North Ridge	SAC	February 2009	27 November 2009	June 2010	Candidate SAC since 20 August 2010
Haisborough, Hammond and Winterton	SAC	February 2009	27 November 2009	June 2010	Candidate SAC since 20 August 2010
Margate and Long Sands	SAC	February 2009	27 November 2009	June 2010	Candidate SAC since 20 August 2010
Lyme Bay and Torbay	SAC	February 2009	27 November 2009	June 2010	Candidate SAC since 20 August 2010

Site	SAC/SPA	Date brief received from NE	Public consultation commenced	Final recommendations to DEFRA	Designation status
Prawle Point to Plymouth Sound and Eddystone	SAC	February 2009	27 November 2009	June 2010	Candidate SAC since 20 August 2010
Lizard Point	SAC	February 2009	27 November 2009	June 2010	Candidate SAC since 20 August 2010
Land's End and Cape Bank	SAC	February 2009	27 November 2009	June 2010	Candidate SAC since 20 August 2010
Shell Flat	SAC	February 2009	27 November 2009	June 2010	SAC since 20 August 2010
Lune Deep	SAC	May 2010	20 August 2010	n/a	Proposed SAC
Prawle Point to Start Point	SAC	May 2010	20 August 2010	n/a	Proposed SAC
Portland to Studland Reef	SAC	September 2010	Expected to be early 2011	n/a	Draft SAC
Pevensey Levels	SAC	8 July 2010	24 August 2010	n/a	Proposed SAC
Arun Valley	SAC	8 July 2010	24 August 2010	n/a	Proposed SAC
The Broads	SAC	8 July 2010	24 August 2010	n/a	Existing SAC; new interest feature proposed
Bolton Fell Moss	SAC	[1]—	August 2000	20 February 2008 (from JNCC)	Site of community importance since December 2009. Awaiting formal designation as SAC.
Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore	SPA	9 October 2000	30 July 2001	16 February 2004	Proposed SPA
Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits	SPA	July 2005	27 September 2006	1 November 2007	Proposed SPA
Dungeness to Pett Levels	SPA	12 May 2010	16 September 2010	n/a	Proposed extensions to SPA

[1] No brief produced. Different process in 2000.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

BBC External Services

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the performance of the BBC World Service against his Department's objectives for the funding of that service, with particular reference to its contribution to strengthening democracy. [16640]

Mr Jeremy Browne: In his speech of 1 July, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary described the "essential importance of the work of...the BBC World Service, which gives Britain an unrivalled platform for the projection of the appeal of our culture and the sharing of our values".

While it is the case the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has an ongoing dialogue with the BBC World Service on the strategic objectives of both organisations, the BBC World Service has full editorial and managerial independence and integrity.

Departmental Billing

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the average cost to his Department was of processing the payment of an invoice in the latest period for which figures are available; and what proportion of invoices settled in that period his Department paid *(a)* electronically and *(b)* by cheque. [16165]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does not maintain a central record of the average cost of processing invoice payments and this information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

In the UK, the FCO settles all invoices electronically. Our overseas posts are able to make cheque payments. However obtaining transactional level information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much money his Department allocated to *(a)* the Stabilisation Aid Fund, *(b)* the Conflict Prevention Pool, *(c)* the Discretionary Peacekeeping Fund, *(d)* the BBC World Service, excluding the BBC World Service Trust, *(e)* the BBC World Service Trust, *(f)* the Special Reserve, *(g)* the British Council and *(h)* the Security and Intelligence Fund in each year since 2005. [15970]

Alistair Burt *[holding answer 11 October 2010]:* The information requested is as follows:

(a), *(b)* and *(c)*: On 1 April 2009 the Conflict Prevention Pool and the Stabilisation Aid Fund were merged to form the Conflict Pool, which is managed tri-departmentally by the Department for International Development (DfID), the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and the Ministry of Defence (MoD). At the same time, responsibility for discretionary peacekeeping costs moved from the Peacekeeping Budget (managed by the FCO) to the Conflict Pool.

Funding for the Peacekeeping Budget and the Conflict Pool (and its predecessors) is provided for separately by the Treasury and does not come from departmental expenditure limits (DEL). As a result, the FCO does not usually contribute to these funds from its own departmental budget. However, in financial year 2009-10, the FCO contributed an additional £2 million to the Conflict Pool from its departmental budget to support stabilisation activities in Helmand Province, Afghanistan.

FCO spend through the Conflict Pool is listed in the Departmental Resource Accounts, available on the FCO website and in the Library of the House.

(d) The following table shows the final FCO allocations (including Capital) to the BBC World Service from 2005-06 to 2009-10 as published in the Spring Supplementary Estimates for each year. Actual spend each year may differ from these figures and is available in the Departmental Resource Accounts available on the FCO website and in the Library of the House.

	£
2005-06	239,143,000
2006-07	239,543,000
2007-08	255,043,000
2008-09	265,043,000
2009-10	272,043,000

(e) The BBC World Service Trust is an independent charity funded by external grants and voluntary contributions. The FCO makes no specific allocation to it each year but may fund individual projects on an ad-hoc basis.

(f) The FCO makes no allocations to the "Special Reserve" which is part of the Treasury Reserve.

(g) The following table shows the final FCO allocations (including capital) to the British Council from 2005-06 to 2009-10 as published in the Spring Supplementary Estimates for each year. Actual spend each year may differ from these figures and is available in the Departmental Resource Accounts, available on the FCO website and in the Library of the House.

	£
2005-06	189,210,000
2006-07	188,124,000
2007-08	194,162,000
2008-09	202,663,000
2009-10	200,763,000

(h) There is no Security and Intelligence Fund. However, there is a Single Intelligence Account to which the FCO makes no allocation.

Developing Countries: Fossil Fuels

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he plans to take to encourage fossil fuel subsidy reform in the emerging economies; and if he will make a statement. [16587]

Mr Bellingham: The G20 has pledged to review progress towards phasing out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies at upcoming summits. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office will work to maintain the profile of the issue at the next G20 meeting in Seoul. Ministers and officials will also continue to encourage emerging economies to implement their national commitments to reduce fossil fuel subsidies in bilateral contacts.

Iran: Nuclear Power

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the EU3+3 strategy in respect of Iran's nuclear ambitions. [16712]

Alistair Burt: When my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary met with E3+3 counterparts in September, they reaffirmed determination and commitment to seek an early negotiated solution to the Iranian nuclear issue. We assess that the E3+3's twin-track strategy of pressure and an offer to negotiate an agreement is having an impact on Iranian decision-makers. We believe it is essential that Iran come to the table; and match our good faith. If it does not, the pressure, in the form of sanctions, will increase.

Nigeria: Christianity

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made representations to his Nigerian counterparts on reports of violence against Christians in Plateau State. [16846]

Mr Bellingham: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not made representations to his Nigerian counterpart on reports of violence against Christians in Plateau State. However, our high commission and the Department for International Development (DfID) in Nigeria have supported non-governmental organisations in northern Nigeria to facilitate dialogue between Christian and Muslim communities, both of whom have suffered from appalling violence this year.

DfID and our high commission in Abuja are also exploring further ways in which they can help the process of reconciliation between religious and ethnic communities, and continue to impress on state and federal authorities the importance of bringing those responsible for crimes to justice. We encourage the Nigerian Government to fully consider the implementation of recommendations made in the recent report of the Presidential Committee on the Jos Crisis.

Nigeria: Elections

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on *(a)* the forthcoming elections in Nigeria and *(b)* steps being taken to ensure that those elections are free and fair. [16641]

Mr Bellingham: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed Nigeria's preparations for elections in 2011 with his Nigerian counterpart H. Odein Ajumogobia on 28 September. Foreign Minister Ajumogobia gave his assurance of the Nigerian Government's commitment to delivering elections which meet global benchmarks, which he echoed in his joint video message with the Foreign Secretary following their meeting:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/news/latest-news/?view=News&id=22933216

In my statement on 8 September:

http://ukinnigeria.fco.gov.uk/en/news/?view=News&id=22827681

I welcomed President Jonathan's commitment to credible elections and the appointment of the new Chair of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), underlining the need to press on with transparent arrangements to overhaul the voter register. The UK (through our high commission and Department for International Development programmes), alongside international partners, continues to provide assistance to INEC, the National Assembly, media, political party structures, civil society, police and the judiciary.

Philippines: Foreign Relations

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the state of UK relations with the Philippines Government; and if he will make a statement. [17336]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The UK enjoys excellent relations with the Philippines. I visited Manila in July this year, where I met with newly elected President Aquino, the Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Members of the Cabinet.

The UK is the largest EU source of foreign investment into the Philippines. We have been actively involved in efforts to bring about a lasting peace in Mindanao in the southern Philippines through our membership of an International Contact Group assisting the peace negotiations. In addition, the UK-based Filipino community of over 250,000 makes a hugely valuable contribution to the UK, particularly in the health and care sectors.

Trade Unions

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department has paid to trade unions in each year since 1997; and what estimate he has made of the monetary value of facilities provided by his Department for use by trade unions in each year since 1997. [11673]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does not make any payments to trade unions in the UK. Members of staff who belong to any trade union pay their own subscriptions, which are either deducted from their salaries and paid to the relevant union or paid directly by the staff in the form of direct debits.

The FCO provides office facilities to its union representatives and meets day-to-day running costs within the rules of public expenditure set out in FCO guidance. An accurate estimate of the monetary value of facilities provided since 1997 could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

HEALTH

Back Pain: Medical Treatments

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients in *(a)* North Yorkshire, *(b)* Darlington and *(c)* Cambridgeshire have received facet joint injections in the last 12 months. [17104]

Paul Burstow: The following table provides a count of finished consultant episodes (FCEs) where there was a main or secondary procedure or intervention of V54.4—injection around spinal facet of spine—at North Yorkshire and York, Darlington, and Cambridgeshire Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) of residence for 2008-09.

Activity in English national health service hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

PCT of residence	*FCEs*
Darlington PCT	182
North Yorkshire and York PCT	1,019
Cambridgeshire PCT	551

Notes:

1. A FCE is a continuous period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. FCEs are counted against the year in which they end. Figures do not represent the number of different patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the same stay in hospital or in different stays in the same year The figures represent admitted patient care only.

2. Number of episodes with a (named) main or secondary procedure: The number of episodes where the procedure (or intervention) was recorded in any of the 24 (12 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and four prior to 2002-03) procedure fields in a HES record. A record is only included once in each count, even if the procedure is recorded in more than one procedure field of the record. More procedures are carried out than episodes with a main or secondary procedure. For example, patients under going a 'cataract operation' would tend to have at least two procedures—removal of the faulty lens and the fitting of a new one—counted in a single episode.

3. HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 national health service trusts and PCTs in England, and from some independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), the Information Centre for health and social care

Cancer

Mr Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients aged *(a)* 49 years and under, *(b)* 50 to 59 years, *(c)* 60 to 69 years, *(d)* 70 to 79 years and *(e)* over 80 years were diagnosed with each type of cancer through the two-week referral pathway in (i) each cancer network, (ii) each primary care trust and (iii) England in each year since that pathway was established. [17166]

Paul Burstow: Any patient urgently referred for suspected cancer by their general practitioner (GP) will be subject to the two-week wait guarantee. Of these patients, any individual subsequently diagnosed with, and treated for, cancer in the English national health service should receive that treatment within 62 days. Statistics detailing the specific diagnoses or ages of these patients are not published due to the small numbers involved and the risk of disclosure of confidential information about patients.

In the most recent period for which statistics are available (Quarter 1 2010-11), 25,590 patients were treated for cancer following an urgent GP referral for suspected cancer.

These data were first published at an all cancer, all ages level by primary care trust (PCT) for the year 2009-10. Statistics for this period show that 97,166 patients from English PCTs were subsequently diagnosed with cancer and treated in the English NHS following an urgent GP referral for suspected cancer. A full breakdown of these data by PCT has been provided as follows and may also be found on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Statistics/Performancedataandstatistics/HospitalWaitingTimesandListStatistics/CancerWaitingTimes/DH_119716

Data are not published on a cancer network basis, these statistics are shown on either a PCT (commissioner) basis in annual datasets or on a trust (provider) basis quarterly. These organisations are the constituent parts of cancer networks.

Primary care trust	*Number of people receiving first treatment for cancer after urgent GP referral for suspected cancer*
Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT	453
Barking and Dagenham PCT	295
Barnet PCT	451
Barnsley PCT	428
Bassetlaw PCT	195
Bath and North East Somerset PCT	295
Bedfordshire PCT	773
Berkshire East PCT	436
Berkshire West PCT	801
Bexley Care Trust	419
Birmingham East and North PCT	668
Blackburn with Darwen PCT	244
Blackpool PCT	407
Bolton PCT	442
Bournemouth and Poole Teaching PCT	666
Bradford and Airedale Teaching PCT	849
Brent Teaching PCT	266
Brighton and Hove City PCT	350
Bristol PCT	789
Bromley PCT	400
Buckinghamshire PCT	883
Bury PCT	345
Calderdale PCT	354
Cambridgeshire PCT	1,457
Camden PCT	251
Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT	781
Central Lancashire PCT	881
City and Hackney Teaching PCT	253
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT	1,711
County Durham PCT	1,003
Coventry Teaching PCT	573
Croydon PCT	424
Cumbria Teaching PCT	1,156
Darlington PCT	208
Derby City PCT	501
Derbyshire County PCT	1,520
Devon PCT	2,017
Doncaster PCT	710
Dorset PCT	989
Dudley PCT	732
Ealing PCT	287
East and North Hertfordshire PCT	926
East Lancashire Teaching PCT	759
East Riding of Yorkshire PCT	823
East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT	854
Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT	1,784
Enfield PCT	405
Gateshead PCT	499
Gloucestershire PCT	1,154
Great Yarmouth and Waveney PCT	549
Greenwich Teaching PCT	365
Halton and St Helens PCT	476
Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	115
Hampshire PCT	2,642
Haringey Teaching PCT	208
Harrow PCT	307
Hartlepool PCT	188
Hastings and Rother PCT	512
Havering PCT	558
Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT	205
Herefordshire PCT	430
Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT	346
Hillingdon PCT	263
Hounslow PCT	180
Hull Teaching PCT	511
Isle of Wight NHS PCT	311
Islington PCT	214
Kensington and Chelsea PCT	144
Kingston PCT	223
Kirklees PCT	640
Knowsley PCT	258
Lambeth PCT	317
Leeds PCT	1,406
Leicester City PCT	389
Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT	1,208
Lewisham PCT	332
Lincolnshire Teaching PCT	1,963
Liverpool PCT	904
Luton PCT	218
Manchester PCT	592
Medway PCT	276
Mid Essex PCT	621
Middlesbrough PCT	291
Milton Keynes PCT	336
Newcastle PCT	528
Newham PCT	160
Norfolk PCT	1,827
North East Essex PCT	613

Primary care trust	*Number of people receiving first treatment for cancer after urgent GP referral for suspected cancer*
North East Lincolnshire Care Trust Plus	343
North Lancashire Teaching PCT	924
North Lincolnshire PCT	370
North Somerset PCT	472
North Staffordshire PCT	494
North Tyneside PCT	442
North Yorkshire and York PCT	1,750
Northamptonshire Teaching PCT	1,295
Northumberland Care Trust	686
Nottingham City PCT	561
Nottinghamshire County Teaching PCT	1,672
Oldham PCT	348
Oxfordshire PCT	1,265
Peterborough PCT	275
Plymouth Teaching PCT	769
Portsmouth City Teaching PCT	422
Redbridge PCT	348
Redcar and Cleveland PCT	354
Richmond and Twickenham PCT	196
Rotherham PCT	384
Salford PCT	428
Sandwell PCT	517
Sefton PCT	646
Sheffield PCT	1,048
Shropshire County PCT	506
Solihull Care Trust	393
Somerset PCT	1,489
South Birmingham PCT	574
South East Essex PCT	603
South Gloucestershire PCT	455
South Staffordshire PCT	1,246
South Tyneside PCT	341
South West Essex PCT	548
Southampton City PCT	438
Southwark PCT	255
Stockport PCT	516
Stockton-on-Tees Teaching PCT	447
Stoke on Trent PCT	672
Suffolk PCT	1,395
Sunderland Teaching PCT	608
Surrey PCT	1,834
Sutton and Merton PCT	511
Swindon PCT	321
Tameside and Glossop PCT	434
Telford and Wrekin PCT	216
Torbay Care Trust	414
Tower Hamlets PCT	288
Trafford PCT	362
Wakefield District PCT	781
Walsall Teaching PCT	380
Waltham Forest PCT	229
Wandsworth PCT	276
Warrington PCT	305
Warwickshire PCT	1,081
West Essex PCT	425
West Hertfordshire PCT	768
West Kent PCT	1,157
West Sussex PCT	1,625
Western Cheshire PCT	614
Westminster PCT	149
Wiltshire PCT	806
Wirral PCT	692
Wolverhampton City PCT	484
Worcestershire PCT	1,026
England	97,166

Notes:

1. The NHS cancer plan all cancer 62-day referral to treatment standard dataset includes those patients separately identified in the 31-day referral to treatment standard for rare cancers.

2. Data are for all cancers, which refers to any case of diagnosed cancer regardless of cancer type.

Source:

Commissioner Based Cancer Waiting times April 2009 to March 2010 (England only).

Cancer: Drugs

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the likely effect of his proposed cancer drugs fund on patients with gastric cancer. [16704]

Mr Simon Burns: We have made no such assessment. Along with the additional funding for cancer drugs in England that is already in place, the Cancer Drugs Fund will, from April 2011, provide cancer patients in England with greater access to the clinically effective drugs their doctors think will help extend or improve their quality of life.

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the regional variations in the prevalence of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. [16840]

Mr Simon Burns: General practitioners (GPs) gather data on the prevalence of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) through the Quality and Outcomes Framework. This means that data on recorded COPD prevalence are available for each GP practice, as well as for larger geographic areas such as primary care trust and strategic health authority. The raw data for 2008-09 are publicly available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/supporting-information/audits-and-performance/the-quality-and-outcomes-framework/qof-2008/09/data-tables/prevalence-data-tables

The consultation document on a strategy for services for COPD in England contains an estimate of all COPD prevalence (including unrecorded prevalence), but this estimate has not currently been disaggregated by region.

The Department has appointed respiratory clinical leads in each of the 10 strategic health authorities in the United Kingdom and they have been provided with some benchmarking data. Part of the responsibility of these posts is to champion the reduction of any regional variation through local action, leading to improved patient outcomes at reduced cost to the national health service.

Dementia: Drugs

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to ensure that the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence review of dementia drugs assesses all available data and treatment options for the management of behavioural symptoms in dementia to ensure that clinicians and carers have clear guidance on *(a)* how to reduce the number of prescriptions for antipsychotic drugs and *(b)* managing behavioural symptoms; and if he will make a statement. [16728]

Mr Simon Burns: This is a matter for the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) as an independent body. NICE is currently updating its existing guidance on the use of donepezil, galantamine, rivastigmine and memantine for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease and further information is available at:

http://guidance.nice.org.uk/TA/WaveR111/1

In developing its technology appraisal guidance, NICE routinely takes the latest available evidence into account, including comparisons with alternative treatment options.

In addition, NICE and the Social Care Institute for Excellence published a joint clinical guideline on dementia in November 2006 that provides guidance on the management of behavioural symptoms and the use of antipsychotic drugs. NICE expects to consider whether this guidance needs to be reviewed in November 2011.

Dementia: Health Services

Stephen McPartland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much funding he expects his Department to allocate for dementia services *(a)* nationally, *(b)* in Hertfordshire and *(c)* in East and North Hertfordshire Primary Care Trust in each of the next five years; and if he will make a statement; [15820]

(2) how much has been spent on dementia services in *(a)* Hertfordshire and *(b)* East and North Hertfordshire Primary Care Trust in each of the last five years. [15821]

Paul Burstow: The Department currently allocates revenue funding directly to primary care trusts (PCTs). In 2010-11, an additional £90 million was included in PCT allocations to support the delivery of the National Dementia Strategy.

PCT allocations are not broken down by policy area. PCTs make decisions on investment in healthcare for their communities, taking into account both local and national priorities. However, in the revised NHS Operating Framework issued by the Department in June 2010, the coalition Government indicated their greater priority for dementia by requiring PCTs and their partners to publish how they are implementing the National Dementia Strategy to increase local accountability for prioritisation.

The amount of funding spent on dementia services is not separately identified within the audited summarisation schedules held by the Department of Health. PCT revenue allocations from 2006-07 to 2010-11 to East and North Hertfordshire PCT and West Hertfordshire PCT are set out in the following table. PCT revenue allocations post 2010-11 will be announced later this year.

		Allocation (£000)
	East and North Hertfordshire PCT	*West Hertfordshire PCT*
2006-07	608.574	627.084
2007-08	667.728	679.655
2008-09	704.199	716.778
2009-10	759.311	773.604
2010-11	803.338	813.380

Notes:
1. Allocations are not always comparable between years because of changes to baseline funding.
2. The 2006-07 allocations and 2007-08 were made to 303 PCTs. The number of PCTs was reduced from 303 to 152 on 1 October 2006. Where the new PCT was a merger of two or more former PCTs, the allocations for the new PCTs are the sum of allocations for the former PCTs. In the few places where former PCTs divided between two or more new PCTs allocations have been estimated for the new PCTs.

In future, responsibility for the allocation of resources will transfer to the NHS Commissioning Board. The board will calculate practice-level budgets and allocate these directly to general practitioner (GP) consortia in late 2012 for 2013-14 on the basis of ensuring all areas secure equal access to NHS services relative to the burden of disease and disability. GP consortia will be responsible for managing the combined commissioning budgets of their member GP practices, and using these resources to improve healthcare and health outcomes.

Dementia: Hertfordshire

Stephen McPartland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to take steps to assist dementia patients in East and North Hertfordshire Primary Care Trust. [16094]

Paul Burstow: This is an issue for Hertfordshire primary care trust (PCT), which is best placed to understand the needs and pressures specific to the local area. However, £150 million has been made available to PCTs— £60 million in 2009-10 and £90 million in 2010-11—to implement the National Dementia Strategy.

This investment has been made alongside the publication by the Department of a new National Dementia Strategy Implementation plan to support the work of PCTs and local authorities in implementing the strategy. Information will also be available in November from a national audit of dementia services. This will allow people to assess how their local services compare with other areas, and the extent to which the strategy is being implemented in their locality.

The Revision to the Operating Framework for the National Health Service in England 2010-11 set out that NHS organisations should be working with partners on implementing the National Dementia Strategy and should publish their implementation plans in order to increase local accountability for prioritisation.

Diabetes: Health Services

John Glen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women in each age group with each type of diabetes were admitted to hospital as an emergency for treatment for (i) diabetic ketoacidosis and (ii) hypoglycaemic emergency in the last five years. [16701]

Paul Burstow: The tables with the information have been placed in the Library.

The tables show emergency hospital admissions with a primary diagnosis of diabetic ketoacidosis or hypoglycaemic coma between 2004-05 and 200-09, the latest year for which data are available, broken down by 20 year age, gender and type of diabetes.

John Glen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average cost of a hospital admission for hypoglycaemic emergency for a patient with type 1 diabetes was in the latest period for which figures are available. [16703]

Paul Burstow: The Department does not hold information on the average cost of a hospital admission for hypoglycaemic emergency for a patient with type 1 diabetes as reference costs do not distinguish between the two types. However, the average unit cost of diabetes (including both type 1 and type 2) with hypoglycaemic disorders in England in 2008-09 was £1,060.

John Glen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the annual average cost to the public purse is of treatment of a patient with type 1 diabetes with *(a)* multiple daily injections and *(b)* insulin pump therapy. [16700]

Paul Burstow: The Department does not hold information on the average cost of treatment of a patient with type 1 diabetes for multiple daily injections or insulin pump therapy. Guidance is available from National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence in Technology Appraisal TA151, which includes a costing template for use in local implementation.

Disability

Mr Burley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to respond to the report by Professor Jim Mansell on "Raising our sights: services for adults with profound intellectual and multiple disabilities". [16781]

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when he plans to respond to Professor Jim Mansell's report on "Raising our sights: services for adults with profound intellectual and multiple disabilities"; [16849]

(2) what assessment he has made of the recommendations made in Professor Jim Mansell's report on "Raising our sights: services for adults with profound intellectual and multiple disabilities"; [16850]

(3) when he plans to respond to the recommendations of the report "Raising our sights: services for adults with profound intellectual and multiple disabilities". [17628]

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to respond to the report commissioned by his Department on "Raising our sights: services for adults with profound intellectual and multiple disabilities". [17176]

Paul Burstow: We expect to give a formal departmental response by the end of the year.

Departmental officials are currently examining the detailed recommendations set out in the report and how these support our objectives to improve outcomes for people with learning disabilities who have complex needs and their families. The elements of good service and good practice examples included in this report sit very clearly within the programme of work which Government are leading to support independent living for people with learning disabilities and to support local service planning and commissioning to meet identified needs in their locality.

Epilepsy: Health Services

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for the delivery of epilepsy services following the planned ending of primary care trusts in 2013. [16713]

Paul Burstow: The White Paper will devolve power and responsibility for commissioning services for epilepsy to general practitioners (GPs). The establishment of an independent and accountable NHS Commissioning Board will allocate and account for national health service resources, leading on quality improvement and promoting patient involvement and choice.

The board will also set commissioning guidelines and approaches that promote joint working between health and social care. The National Service Framework for Long-term neurological Services itself, and the outcomes statements, provides a framework for NHS commissioners to commission and develop services for people with neurological conditions.

Commissioning by GP consortia will enable the redesign of care pathways to reflect the needs of their patients, which ultimately will lead to the more effective management of long-term conditions such as epilepsy.

Additionally, Quality Standards will be based on relevant National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) guidelines, and address the often-voiced concern of patient groups that commissioners do not commission in line with NICE clinical guidelines.

Health Services: Cooperatives

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will make it his policy to support local authorities in developing mutual organisations for social care direct payments; [17081]

(2) if he will bring forward proposals to ensure that all service users and carers have access to a local direct payments mutual organisations. [17082]

Paul Burstow: The Government's vision for adult social care, to be published in November 2010, will set out an enhanced role for the voluntary and community sector in providing services.

The Government recognise that in order for a person to live a fulfilling and independent life, they must be able to control the care and support they need.

Personalisation is key to achieving this, and we want to see an increase in the number of people in receipt of personal budgets.

Mutual organisations have a vital role to play in supporting people to make use of personal budgets.

Health Services: Disadvantaged

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will put in place mechanisms to ensure the NHS better meets the needs of the most disadvantaged people; and if he will make a statement. [16305]

Anne Milton: The Government have made it clear that tackling health inequalities is a priority. Everyone should have the same opportunities to lead a healthy life, no matter where they live, or who they are. The national health service has a critical role to play in reducing the health inequalities that effect disadvantaged people, and the White Paper, "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS", published on 12 July 2010, would create an explicit NHS duty on tackling inequalities in access to NHS healthcare and the outcomes for that care. Our aim is to create an NHS that is much more responsive to patients, putting them at the heart of everything it does, and that reduces inequalities in care.

The White Paper also sets out plans for the new public health service that would have an important role in reducing these inequalities. The public health budget would be ring-fenced and allocated to reflect relative population health outcomes, with a new "health premium" to promote action to reduce health inequalities. We would therefore create a service that both recognises the impact of deprivation and rewards improvement, providing further incentives to reduce inequalities in health. We expect to publish a White Paper on public health later this year, outlining the Government's plans for establishing the new public health service, and also mapping a cross-Government strategy on public health.

Hospitals: Food

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of food supplied to hospitals under contracts negotiated by NHS Supply Chain was domestically produced in the latest period for which figures are available. [16858]

Mr Simon Burns: The latest figure available is for 2008-09 and this shows that 64.5% of food supplied to hospitals under contracts negotiated by NHS Supply Chain was domestically produced.

Mentally Ill: Community Care

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanisms are in place under the Mental Health Act 2007 to enable community mental health teams to offer early preventive treatment to individuals with mental disorders who may pose a danger to the safety of themselves or others. [17027]

Paul Burstow: The Mental Health Act 1983 (which was amended by the Mental Health Act 2007) is primarily concerned with the legal framework for the compulsory care and treatment of people with mental disorders, rather than with the provision of services. There is nothing in the Act specifically to enable mental health services to provide early preventive treatment to individuals. Such services are, however, widely provided by the national health service, not least through dedicated early intervention teams for younger people experiencing a first episode of psychosis. Prevention is one of a number of key themes we are addressing in the preparation of the Government's new mental health strategy.

NHS: Manpower

Liz Kendall: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* nurses, *(b)* clinical staff, *(c)* non-clinical staff and *(d)* managerial posts remain unfilled as a result of the NHS recruitment freeze. [16629]

Mr Simon Burns: There is no current freeze on national health service recruitment. It is for each NHS organisation to take its own decisions about recruitment policies.

NHS: Public Participation

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to ensure that the work of LINk groups continues after March 2011. [16730]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department's consultation papers on the future of the national health service, including 'Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS', 'Liberating the NHS: Commissioning for Patients' and 'Liberating the NHS: Local Democratic Legitimacy in Health' set out proposals to establish HealthWatch, at both a national and local level, in England from April 2012. In those documents it was made clear that the proposals envisaged that local HealthWatch organisations would evolve from the current system of local involvement networks (LINks). The consultation period for these documents has now closed and the Government are considering their response.

The duty on local authorities to ensure LINk activities are carried on in their area, as set out in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act, 2007 (Part 14), will remain in place until any legislation to establish HealthWatch, proposed in the consultation, is approved by Parliament.

Psychiatry: Regulation

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for the future regulation of psychotherapists. [16670]

Anne Milton: The Government are currently considering their overall strategy in relation to professional regulation, including the regulation of psychotherapists and counsellors. No final decisions have been made.

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received on the regulation of counselling and psychotherapy in respect of a *(a)* basic standard of training and *(b)* compulsory code of conduct. [16911]

Anne Milton: Since May, the Department has received at least 216 pieces of correspondence regarding the regulation of psychotherapists and counsellors by the Health Professions Council. It is unclear how many of these pieces of correspondence may have been written about basic standards of training or compulsory code of conduct.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Welfare

Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many regulated procedures under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 were carried out in Wales in 2009; [16533]

(2) how many procedures carried out on animals in Wales under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 involved *(a)* New World primates and *(b)* Old World primates in 2009; and what the primary purpose of those procedures were; [16543]

(3) what the *(a)* primary purpose and *(b)* field of research was of each procedure carried out on animals in Wales under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 involving (i) fish, (ii) pigs and (iii) genetically modified animals in 2009; and for what reason there was an increase in the number of procedures carried out on (A) fish, (B) pigs and (C) genetically-modified animals in Wales in 2009 compared to the previous year; [16544]

(4) what proportion of procedures regulated under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 carried out in Wales were conducted without anaesthesia in 2009; [16549]

(5) how many *(a)* mice, *(b)* rats, *(c)* guinea pigs, *(d)* hamsters, *(e)* rabbits, *(f)* horses and other equids, *(g)* sheep, *(h)* pigs, *(i)* birds, *(j)* amphibians, *(k)* reptiles, *(l)* fish, *(m)* cats, *(n)* dogs, *(o)* New World primates and *(p)* Old World primates were used in procedures conducted in Wales and regulated under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 in 2009; [16550]

(6) how many individual animals were used in procedures regulated under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 in Wales in 2009; [16551]

(7) how many regulated procedures under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 conducted in Wales involved *(a)* cats, *(b)* dogs, *(c)* rabbits, *(d)* horses and other equids, *(e)* New World primates and *(f)* Old World primates which (i) were genetically modified and (ii) had a harmful genetic defect in 2009; [16552]

(8) what proportion of regulated procedures under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 conducted in Wales were carried out for *(a)* fundamental and applied studies other than toxicology and *(b)* toxicity tests or other safety and efficacy evaluation in 2009; [16553]

(9) what proportion of regulated procedures under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 conducted in Wales were performed in *(a)* public health laboratories, *(b)* universities and medical schools, *(c)* NHS hospitals, *(d)* Government departments, *(e)* other public bodies, *(f)* non-profit making organisations and *(g)* commercial organisations in 2009; [16554]

(10) how many *(a)* genetically modified animals and *(b)* animals with a harmful genetic defect were used in regulated procedures under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 conducted in Wales in 2009. [16555]

Lynne Featherstone: My hon. Friend tabled 10 questions regarding the Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals for Wales in 2009. While figures for Great Britain are published annually, the latest being on 27 July 2010, it would take significant work to run the systems specifically to obtain data for Wales and then to check that none of the data was disclosive or breached any confidentiality guarantees given to respondents. For this reason, I will write to my hon. Friend separately when we have had sufficient time to compile and check the information you requested. A copy of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many infringements of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 in Wales were recorded in 2009; and how many resulted in a prosecution. [16545]

Lynne Featherstone: There were no recorded infringements of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 at designated establishments in Wales during 2009.

Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many sites in Wales were designated as a *(a)* supplying, *(b)* breeding and *(c)* scientific procedure establishment under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 at the end of 2009. [16547]

Lynne Featherstone: As at 31 December 2009 in Wales there were one supplying, two breeding and eight user establishments designated under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986. An establishment can be a user, breeder and supplier.

Animal Welfare: Licences

Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many project licences for work in Wales were granted under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 in 2009; and how many such licences were in force at the end of 2009. [16546]

Lynne Featherstone: During 2009, 13 project licences were granted under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 in Wales. On 31 December 2009 there were 76 project licences in force in Wales.

Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of the project licences granted under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 and in force in Wales at the end of 2009 were in the *(a)* mild, *(b)* moderate, *(c)* substantial and *(d)* unclassified severity banding. [16548]

Lynne Featherstone: During 2009, in Wales, 59% of the project licences granted under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 were in the mild severity banding, 41% in moderate, there were none in substantial or unclassified.

Immigration

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals who at the time of their application for indefinite leave to remain in the UK were resident in the Peterborough City Council area were granted such leave in the latest period for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [16864]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency is unable to provide definitive data on the applicants address at the time of application. The information provided is therefore the applicants last known address.

The following table lists applications made for indefinite leave from April 2009 to March 2010 for applicants living in the Peterborough city council area. It also shows the number of these applicants that were subsequently granted.

		Number
	Applications made	*Applications granted*
2009		
April	31	29
May	35	30
June	56	52
July	60	52
August	49	44
September	55	48
October	23	18
November	28	27
December	45	42
2010		
January	66	57
February	42	34
March	65	56
Total	555	489

Note: This is internal management information and is subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols.

Immigration: Appeals

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions the UK Border Agency has made a request to the Tribunals Service to re-send appeal determination notifications from the First-tier Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum Chamber) and its predecessors in the last 12 months. [16778]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency does not hold information on the number of occasions it has made a request to the Tribunals Service to re-send appeal determination notifications from the First-tier Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum Chamber) and its predecessors in the last 12 months.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to respond to the letter from the hon. Member for Walsall North of 2 September to the Minister of State on a constituent, ref: K2160664 and CTS M12547/10. [17323]

Damian Green: A reply was sent to the hon. Member on 12 October 2010.

Migration Impact Fund

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on the provision of further funding to the Migration Impact Fund. [17052]

Damian Green: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government announced on 22 June that the Migration Impacts Fund would be coming to an end on 1 October 2010.

Racial and Religious Hatred Act 2006: Convictions

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been *(a)* charged and *(b)* convicted under the provisions of the Racial and Religious Hatred Act 2006. [16847]

The Solicitor-General: I have been asked to reply.

The Racial and Religious Hatred Act 2006, which came into force on 1 October 2007, inserted into Part III of the Public Order Act 1986 offences relating to stirring up hatred against persons on religious grounds. Prosecutions for this offence require the consent of the Attorney-General.

Since 1 October 2007 only one person has been charged with any offence of stirring up religious hatred, and that person (Anthony Bamber) was acquitted on 21 June 2010.

Rape: Finance

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding her Department provided to sexual abuse and rape counselling services in *(a)* England and *(b)* Wales in the latest period for which figures are available; and on what date each such payment was made. [17107]

Lynne Featherstone: The coalition has committed to giving rape crisis centres stable, long-term funding and to building new centres where they are needed.

Funding provided to sexual abuse and rape counselling services in England

The Department of Health and the Home Office Ministers have agreed to provide £3.2 million to improve Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) service provision for victims of sexual assault for 2010-11. The first resource payments are being administered through the Department of Health and grant agreements for capital funding have been issued by the Home Office. First payments of capital funding will be made in October.

43 independent sexual violence adviser (ISVA) posts have been part funded in England by the Home Office in 2010-11. A total of £860,000 was allocated for this purpose in July 2010.

The Home office has also made £150,000 available to third sector organisations to support their work with the specialist sector. £75,000 was paid to Rape Crisis in September 2010 and a payment will shortly be made to the Survivors Trust.

Funding provided to sexual abuse and rape counselling services in Wales

he Home Office has allocated £55,293 in total for Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) in Wales in the financial year 2010-1. This consists of £25,520 resource and £29,773 capital for SARC funding. The Home Office is due to make this payment later in October.

Terrorism: Deportation

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many persons convicted of terrorist offences were awaiting deportation on the latest date for which figures are available; to which countries; and for how long following the date of conviction each has been awaiting deportation. [15560]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency seeks to deport foreign national offenders who meet the following criteria for deportation:

A court recommendation.

For non-EEA nationals—a custodial sentence of 12 months or more either in one sentence, or as an aggregate of two or three sentences over a period of five years or a custodial sentence of any length for a drug offence (an offence other than possession only).

For EEA nationals—a custodial sentence of 12 months or more for an offence involving drugs, violent or sexual crimes or a custodial sentence of 24 months or more for other offences.

Deportation action may also be taken even where these criteria are not met if this is deemed to be conducive to the public good for other reasons.

At the point where no barriers to removal exist—including where any custodial sentence has been served and where there is no outstanding appeal—the UK Border Agency will set a direction to remove. According to provisional management information on 10 September 2010 approximately 150 foreign national prisoners who meet the relevant deportation criteria had removal directions set against them. Of these none had a primary criminal offence recorded as being terrorist-related.

As there were no terrorist related offences we are unable to provide information as to which country the individual was from or how long following the date of conviction each has been awaiting deportation.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Food: Prices

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on the effects on developing countries of food speculation. [16841]

Mr O'Brien: We have not had any formal discussions with our EU counterparts on the effects of food speculation on developing countries. But our view is that speculation is unlikely to have played a significant and damaging role in recent food price volatility.

Our view is supported by the European Commission who have also concluded that:

> "the balance of available evidence does not support the speculative bubble theory"

in the 2007-08 food price spike. Similarly, a recent OECD report finds that:

> "index funds did not cause a bubble in commodity futures prices".

Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with the head of the Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria on the donor replenishment meeting. [16993]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: I met Michel Kazatchkine, Executive Director of the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, on 17 August and again in the margins of the MDG Summit in New York. We discussed the Multilateral Aid Review, which will look at core funding provided by the Department for International Development (DFID) to multilateral agencies. The review will include an assessment of the relevance of the Global Fund to the UK's objectives on poverty reduction and its ability to deliver results on the ground. The results of the Multilateral Aid Review will be an important element in any future funding decisions in respect of the fund. I also spoke with Michel Kazatchkine in London on 27 September at the viewing of the UN Foundation's documentary 'A New Picture of Health'.

At the recent Global Fund replenishment conference DFID reaffirmed our £1 billion pledge from 2008 to 2015, subject to the results of the Multilateral Aid Review.

Overseas Aid

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what mechanisms he has put in place to provide for contributions to be made to international agencies by his Department whilst its Multilateral Aid Review is ongoing. [16992]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The outcome of the Multilateral Aid Review will be published early next year. Interim decisions on funding for multilateral partners need to balance the requirements to minimise disruption to the work of our partners and ensure consistency with the results of the review. My Department is in contact with our partner institutions to discuss whether financing decisions can be delayed for a short period without adversely affecting their work on the ground. Where this is not possible, or where a delay in an announcement of UK funding may delay negotiations with other donors, I will make an earlier decision, informed by the evidence and analysis already gathered during the review.

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he plans to retain the target of spending 0.7% of gross national income on official development assistance from the year 2013; and whether he plans to bring forward legislation to provide for such targets. [16994]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Yes.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Manpower

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many officials his Department has appointed on fixed-term contracts since 7 May 2010. [16797]

Mr Paterson: Since 7 May 2010 there have not been any appointments on fixed-term contracts.

Departmental Work Experience

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many interns his Department has engaged in the last 12 months; and how many were *(a)* unpaid, *(b)* remunerated with expenses only and *(c)* paid a salary. [17206]

Mr Paterson: The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) has not engaged any interns in the last 12 months.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether he has made an estimate of the change in the level of carbon dioxide emissions from his Department since May 2010; and what steps he plans to take to meet his Department's target of reducing such emissions by 10 per cent. by May 2011. [16816]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office has estimated the change in the level of carbon dioxide emissions from its estate for the period between May and July 2010 in accordance with the 10% reduction campaign criteria announced by the Prime Minister on 14 May 2010. Compared with the same period last year, a reduction of in excess of 10% has been achieved by introducing a wide range of energy saving initiatives.

Departmental Drinking Water

Nick de Bois: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department has spent on bottled water in each year since 2008. [16871]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office spend on bottled water is as follows:

	Cost (£)
2007-08	2,880
2008-09	2,607
2009-10	1,302

These figures do not include any bottled water obtained for ministerial hospitality events, as this is subsumed within the supplier's invoice and not recorded separately.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what steps his Department is taking to improve its level of compliance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [16998]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office endeavours to handle all FOI requests in accordance with statutory requirements and good practice. Internal procedures have been reviewed to ensure that all requests are answered as quickly as possible; all relevant staff have been briefed on the Information Commissioner's recent report; and the Scotland Office senior management team monitors performance on a monthly basis. For the most recent quarter, the Scotland Office exceeded 86% within 20 working days, which is above the Information Commissioner's acceptable level of performance.

Devolution: Scotland

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with CBI *(a)* Scotland and *(b)* UK on the effects on PAYE schemes administered from England and Wales of the implementation of the recommendations of the Calman Commission. [16824]

Michael Moore: I have frequent discussions with representatives from CBI Scotland on a range of issues. The Director of CBI Scotland was one of the Calman Commissioners and CBI Scotland are now represented on the Implementation Group referred to in the Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury's answer to written question 16400 on 11 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 235. When this group first met, both the Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury and I invited all participants to liaise closely with the Government as the work to implement the recommendations of the Calman Commission progresses.

Future Jobs Fund: Scotland

Ian Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on the evidential basis for the value for money of the Future Jobs Fund in Scotland. [17322]

Michael Moore: I have had a number of discussions with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions and will continue to engage with him going forward.

TRANSPORT

Bicycles

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has made a recent assessment of the number of bicycles which may be carried on trains operated by each train operator; and whether he plans to take steps to increase that number. [16897]

Mrs Villiers: It is a commercial consideration for the individual train operating companies to provide storage space for cycles on their trains. It is not for the Department for Transport to dictate how many cycle spaces an operator should provide, but we do encourage train operators to accommodate folding bicycles at all times.

We are also noting the progress of the Station Travel Plan pilot project being run by the rail industry to encourage rail passengers to use more sustainable forms of transport, including cycling, to travel to and from stations.

Bus Services: Rural Areas

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his policy is on ensuring continued access to bus services for rural communities. [17200]

Norman Baker: It is local authorities that are best placed to ensure that rural communities are able to access jobs and essential services—by bus, by flexible services such as dial-a-ride, or by bringing services directly to the door. They have a statutory duty to produce local transport plans, which we believe remain the best way for authorities to plan transport strategy and delivery.

In areas where frequent public transport services are not commercially viable, the voluntary and community sector have a large role to play in delivering long-term sustainable alternatives. The Government are committed to supporting partnership working between local authorities, commercial providers and the voluntary sector that delivers tailor-made local services.

Rather than prescribing one method from Whitehall, we will therefore provide greater funding freedoms and flexibilities at a local level. As part of this approach, the Government recently announced a Local Sustainable Transport Fund which will support local transport and encourage more sustainable travel solutions based on local need.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much of his Department's expenditure supported the work of charities and voluntary organisations in the latest period for which figures are available *(a)* directly and *(b)* indirectly. [17100]

Norman Baker: I regret that the information requested cannot be provided except at disproportionate cost.

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency: Complaints

Andrew Bridgen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many complaints the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency has received from driving licence holders who claim to have had categories deleted from their driving licence on renewal or replacement in each year since 2007. [17045]

Mike Penning: The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency only holds statistics on complaints received through its formal procedures since July 2007.

The number of complaints received from drivers claiming that entitlement is missing from their driving licence in each year since then is:

2007: 18
2008: 109
2009: 150
2010: 33.

When an individual makes multiple complaints about the same issue, each complaint is recorded separately. The figures represent the number of complaints received rather than the number of individuals making a complaint.

Highways Agency: Vehicles

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many traffic officer vehicles the Highways Agency leased in the latest period for which figures are available; and from which companies those vehicles were leased. [17311]

Mike Penning: The Highways Agency has leased 207 vehicles within the last 12 months. All vehicles are leased from Lex Autolease, Windsor House, Castlebrook Business Park, Hollins Brook Way, Bury, BL9 8RT.

Humber Bridge

Mr Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much interest has been charged on the original loan to build the Humber Bridge since it was taken out. [17161]

Norman Baker: The Humber Bridge Board has paid a net amount of £247 million in interest between 1981-82 and 2009-10. A total of £502 million has been paid in interest, less £255 million which was paid by Government in grants between 1991-92 and 1997-98, to enable the interest to be paid.

Motor Sports

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which Minister in his Department has policy responsibility for the provisions of the Road Traffic Act 1988 which are required to be suspended to enable rallying to take place on public roads; which division of his Department handles policy on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [17373]

Mike Penning: I am the Minister who has policy responsibility for these provisions of the Road Traffic Act 1988, sections 12, 13 and 13A. Under this Act, motor racing on the public highway is prohibited. However, competitions and trials (other than a race or trial of speed) may be held in accordance with the Motor Vehicles (Competition and Trials) Regulations 1969. A small number of on-road race events in Great Britain have over the years been authorised by individual private Acts of Parliament.

The Department for Transport Road User Safety division handles policy on this issue.

Railway Stations: Birmingham

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects the Access for All scheme at Northfield station in Birmingham to be *(a)* started and *(b)* completed. [16595]

Mrs Villiers: Based on the most recent project data supplied by Network Rail, building work on the Access for All scheme at Northfield station is scheduled to start in August 2011 and finish by September 2012. The scheme is currently at design stage and the anticipated final cost of the project is circa £2,531,000.

Railways: Birmingham

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent estimate his Department has made of the public expenditure required for the development of the proposed London to Birmingham High Speed 2 rail line in each year from 2010 to 2015. [16899]

Mr Philip Hammond: The Department for Transport has estimated that £21 million will be required in expenditure during the current financial year (2010-11) for the development of the high speed rail proposals. This expenditure relates largely to development of and public consultation on the proposed London to Birmingham line, but also includes work on options for an extended network serving Manchester and Leeds.

In addition, the Department has estimated that £50 million will be required to fund the purchase of properties under the HS2 Exceptional Hardship Scheme over the period August 2010 to December 2011.

Public expenditure in future years is subject to the outcome of the 2010 spending review.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reasons his Department has not published an environmental impact assessment for the proposed London to Birmingham High Speed 2 route through the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty; and if he will make a statement. [16901]

Mr Philip Hammond: Subject to the outcome of public consultation, the necessary powers to construct any new high speed rail line would be sought through a hybrid Bill. It would be as part of the hybrid Bill process that an environmental impact assessment would be produced to satisfy the requirements of the EU's Environmental Impact Assessment Directive.

However, a full appraisal of sustainability will be published in order to inform public consultation prior to the forthcoming consultation on proposals for a high speed line between London and the West Midlands. This will set out the environmental and local impacts of that route, including those in the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Railways: Sanitation

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will discuss with train operating companies the effects on *(a)* people with Crohn's disease, *(b)* elderly people, *(c)* parents with babies under the age of one year and *(d)* children under five years of the operation of trains which run without toilet facilities on journeys of (i) one and (ii) one and a half hours. [17587]

Mrs Villiers: The rolling stock that is deployed on the rail network is a matter for the individual train operating companies. It is for them to decide what rolling stock is deployed on particular routes and services, and what facilities that rolling stock contains. As part of these considerations they will need to judge the impact of any changes to rolling stock on all their passengers.

The Department for Transport is currently consulting on reforms to the franchising system. One of the proposals under consideration is whether to use passenger satisfaction measures as part of the means by which franchise performance is assessed. If a decision is made to go ahead with passenger satisfaction metrics as part of future franchise obligations, passenger perceptions and views about facilities such as stations and toilets may have an impact on the performance of train operators against these new measures.

Rapid Transit Systems: Bedfordshire

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether any private funding has been provided for the Luton Dunstable Guided Busway. [17372]

Norman Baker: Luton borough council has secured £3.4 million in private sector contributions towards the cost of the Luton Dunstable Guided Busway.

Roads Schemes

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether local authorities are entitled to reclaim from Government any money spent on the planning process for road schemes cancelled by his Department. [16715]

Norman Baker: The Secretary of State suspended the previous guidance on local authority major schemes on 10 June 2010. The written ministerial statement of 10 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 35WS, that announced this made it clear that the Department for Transport does not accept any liability for development or preparatory costs incurred to date or which may be incurred going forward while funding remains uncertain.

The Department will announce new arrangements for local authority major schemes as soon as possible following the conclusion of the spending review.

Roads: Telephones

Andrew Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made on the roll-out of emergency roadside telephones with a T-loop and text facilities for the deaf and hard of hearing. [17351]

Mike Penning: The roll-out of emergency roadside telephones with T-loop and text facilities is 80% complete. It is anticipated that the installation programme will be completed in June 2011. All new and old versions of the emergency roadside telephones have a T-loop facility.

Severn Bridges Tolls

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has made a recent assessment of the effects on the economy of Wales of the Severn Bridges tolls. [17090]

Mike Penning: There has been no recent assessment of the effects on the economy of Wales of the Severn Bridges tolls. However, both the Welsh Affairs Committee and the Welsh Assembly Government are undertaking separate reviews of the effects of the Severn Bridges tolls on the economy of Wales. Both are due to report back with their findings next year. I will consider the findings of these reports.

TREASURY

Credit: Interest Rates

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what recent discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on the variation between the interest rates offered by loan and credit companies, with particular reference to those offered to applicants with poor credit histories; [16913]

(2) what recent representations he has received on the *(a)* regulation of and *(b)* variation in interest rates offered by loan and credit companies. [16914]

Mr Davey: I have been asked to reply.

The Government are keen to encourage responsible lending and borrowing on fair terms. I have held discussions with ministerial colleagues and received informal representations from both lenders and consumer groups on a range of consumer credit issues, including the interest rates charged by lenders.

In July I announced a joint BIS-HM Treasury review of consumer credit and personal insolvency. The Government believe that this is the right time for a properly targeted review of certain aspects of the credit and debt market, including high cost credit and the levels of interest rates charged for credit and store cards. BIS has just published a call for evidence that seeks to help us better to understand the key issues and ensure we are concentrating the review on the priorities for consumers and lenders.

Financial Services: EU Action

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what negotiating position his Department adopted in discussions on the EU framework for financial supervision agreed in the Council of Ministers; and if he will make a statement. [17392]

Mr Hoban: The new European framework has the potential to fundamentally improve the quality and consistency of supervision, ensure more effective rulemaking with the framework provided by directives and enforcement, and better identify risks in the financial system.

The framework ensures that day-to-day supervision of financial institutions will remain at the national level and establishes that the new European Supervisory Authorities cannot take decisions that impinge on member states' fiscal responsibilities. It also ensures that the new authorities have requirements for high standards of governance, transparency and accountability.

The Government support the new framework and welcome the decision to base the European banking authority in London, recognising the UK's importance as Europe's global financial centre.

Goldman Sachs: Fines

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will transfer into the first account of the Green Investment Bank the proceeds of the £20 million fine imposed in September 2010 on Goldman Sachs by the Financial Services Authority for failure to inform the financial regulator of details of an international staff transfer. [16280]

Mr Hoban: The matter concerned is the responsibility of the Financial Services Authority (FSA), whose day-to-day operations are independent from Government control and influence. However, I understand that any financial penalties that the FSA levies are not treated as a benefit to the FSA but are instead rebated to fee-payers in the subsequent financial year.

The Government are considering a wide range of options for the scope and structure of the Green Investment Bank and will put forward detailed proposals following the spending review.

International Assistance

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to lay before Parliament his Department's next report on Government activity at the World Bank and International Monetary Fund. [16397]

Mr Hoban: The Government are fully committed to transparency and accountability with regard to their activities at the international financial institutions. The Treasure is reviewing options for reporting on the UK's relationship with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and how best to engage Parliament in further debate on the UK's role within the IMF. The Secretary of State for Development is the UK's Governor to the World Bank and is therefore responsible for reporting on the UK's activities at the World Bank.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter of 31 August from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on Mr B. James. [17676]

Mr Hoban: I have replied to the right hon. Member.

Northern Rock Foundation

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the policy of UK Financial Investments Ltd is on funding the Northern Rock Foundation after April 2011. [17084]

Mr Hoban: Northern Rock plc and Northern Rock (Asset Management) are managed at arm's length from Government, on commercial principles, by an experienced management team. The Government's shareholding in Northern Rock plc and Northern Rock (Asset Management) is then the responsibility of UK Financial Investments (UKFI), and a shareholder framework agreement has been published which sets out how UKFI operates its shareholder relationship with the company.

As with other business decisions, any future relationship with the foundation is a matter for the separate boards of Northern Rock plc and Northern Rock (Asset Management).

WORK AND PENSIONS

Disability Living Allowance: Medical Examinations

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what organisations he will consult on the development of the new medical assessment for eligibility for the disability living allowance; what the dates will be of the consultation; and when decisions will be announced. [13909]

Maria Miller: We recognise the importance of involving disabled people and their representatives, as well as healthcare and other professionals with relevant expertise, in the design of the new assessment for disability living allowance. To ensure that all organisations and individuals with an interest in this area have the opportunity to contribute their views we will hold a public consultation on the new assessment in autumn this year.

In addition to this broader consultation process, a disability living allowance assessment development group comprising disabled people and relevant health professionals and others with expertise in this area has been created to advise on the development of the new assessment.

Future Jobs Fund: Kilmarnock

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which organisations with registered business premises in Kilmarnock and Loudoun constituency have been approved to provide employment under the Future Jobs Fund. [17131]

Chris Grayling: The Department does not hold records of all the organisations that are providing employment through the Future Jobs Fund. Details of lead accountable bodies who have been successful in receiving FJF awards are available here:

http://campaigns.dwp.gov.uk/campaigns/futurejobsfund/index.asp

Future Jobs Fund: West Lothian

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many residents of the West Lothian council area aged *(a)* 18 to 24 years and *(b)* over 24 years who had been out of work and claiming jobseeker's allowance for more than six months have found employment through the Future Jobs Fund since the fund was established. [15927]

Chris Grayling: The Young Person's Guarantee statistics were published on 11 August 2010 and are available here:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?paqe=ypg

Statistics are available on the Future Jobs Fund which cover the period from October 2009 to May 2010. They show that there were 4,460 recorded Future Jobs Fund starts in the Scotland region. The information requested for West Lothian is not available.

Pensioners: Kilmarnock

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has made a recent estimate of the number of pensioners in Kilmarnock and Loudoun constituency who *(a)* receive the basic state pension, *(b)* receive pension credit and *(c)* are eligible for pension credit but do not claim it. [17133]

Steve Webb: The document "Caseloads for selected benefits by 2010 Parliamentary Constituencies February 2010" is available in the Library and includes figures for pension credit and state pension.

Estimates of eligibility and therefore those who are entitled to pension credit but have not claimed it are not available below the level of Great Britain.

The latest estimates of the take-up rates and the number of those entitled to but not receiving pension credit are published in the report "Income Related Benefits Estimates of Take-Up in 2008-09" which can be accessed via the following link:

http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=irb

Social Security Benefits

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has made a recent estimate of the number of households in each parliamentary constituency who receive more than £500 per week in state benefits. [16767]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not available at a parliamentary constituency level.

The information is available for Great Britain. Latest estimates show that in 2010-11 there are around 100,000 working age households in receipt of more than £500 a week in all benefits and tax credits, including disability living allowance. If disability living allowance is excluded then around 50,000 working age households are in receipt of more than £500 a week.

The Chancellor's announcement of a benefit cap was informed by high-level consideration of the broad impacts. We are now working up the more detailed design of the caps as part of the spending review. When we introduce legislation for the implementation of the caps, we shall publish an impact assessment.

Note:

All figures are rounded to the nearest 50,000.

Source:

DWP Policy Simulation Model, based on the 2008-09 Family Resources Survey data

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has made a recent estimate of the number of households in *(a)* Scotland and *(b)* the UK who receive more than £500 per week in state benefits. [16768]

Chris Grayling: The information requested for Scotland is not available as sample sizes are too small to yield reliable results.

The information is available for Great Britain. Latest estimates show that in 2010-11 there are around 100,000 working age households in receipt of more than £500 a week in all benefits and tax credits, including disability living allowance. If disability living allowance is excluded then around 50,000 working age households are in receipt of more than £500 a week.

The Chancellor's announcement of a benefit cap was informed by high-level consideration of the broad impacts. We are now working up the more detailed design of the caps as part of the spending review. When we introduce legislation for the implementation of the caps, we shall publish an impact assessment.

Note:

All figures are rounded to the nearest 50,000.

Source:

DWP Policy Simulation Model, based on the 2008/09 Family Resources Survey data

Winter Fuel Payments: Chester

Stephen Mosley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many residents of City of Chester constituency claim winter fuel allowance; and how many such residents are higher rate taxpayers. [17321]

Steve Webb: Most winter fuel payments are paid automatically without the need to claim them.

The latest available information on the number of individuals receiving winter fuel payments in the City of Chester constituency is available in the document "Winter Fuel Payment recipients 2009-2010 by Parliamentary Constituencies and Gender (All)". This is available in the House of Commons Library and on the internet at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=wfp

Information on whether the individuals are higher rate taxpayers is not available.

Winter Fuel Payments: Scotland

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his most recent estimate is of the number of people in each parliamentary constituency in Scotland who are entitled to the winter fuel allowance. [17074]

Steve Webb: The information is available in the document "Winter Fuel Payment recipients 2009-10 by Parliamentary Constituencies and Gender (All)". This is available in the House of Commons Library and on the internet at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?paqe=wfp

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 18 October 2010

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he has made an estimate of the change in the level of carbon dioxide emissions from his Department since May 2010; and what steps he plans to take to meet his Department's target of reducing such emissions by 10% by May 2011. [16805]

John Penrose: The Department's target to reduce carbon emissions from offices by 10% includes DCMS and its executive agency, the Royal Parks. For the period 1 May 2010 to 31 August 2010 it is estimated that carbon emissions have decreased by 16% compared to the same period the previous year.

The following initiatives have been identified to ensure that the target of reducing emissions by 10% by May 2011 will be met:

DCMS

Reduce running times of fan coil units
Lighting adjustments
Sequencing of the boiler and chiller
Reduced cooling in the data centre
Virtualisation of the data centre

The Royal Parks

Housekeeping
Boiler replacement.

Departmental Drinking Water

Nick de Bois: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much his Department has spent on bottled water in each year since 2008. [16876]

John Penrose: In September 2008 the Department installed a system to filter and bottle tap water on site. The Department now no longer purchases bottled water.

Departmental Furniture

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on soft furnishings and furniture in each year from 1997-98 to 2006-07. [17704]

John Penrose: The amount spent by the Department on furniture from 2005 to 2007 is set out in the table. The Department does not hold information prior to 2005.

	Furniture costs (£)
2005	9,035
2006	358,589
2007	331,926

Due to the way information has been collated we are unable to disaggregate the costs of soft furnishings from the overall expenditure without incurring a disproportionate cost.

Departmental Manpower

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many officials his Department has appointed on fixed-term contracts since 7 May 2010. [16783]

John Penrose: Since 7 May 2010, the Department has appointed three officials on fixed-term contracts.

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many *(a)* officials of his Department and *(b)* external advisers are working on his Department's review of the National Lottery. [17057]

John Penrose: Six officials are spending part of their time on the reforms to the national lottery. No external advisers are involved.

Departmental Press: Subscriptions

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on newspapers and magazines in each year between 1997-98 and 2005-06. [17702]

John Penrose: The information set out in the table shows expenditure incurred by the Department on subscriptions for hard copy and online magazines, newspapers, books and other publications, access to specific research databases, the Stationery Office and other parliamentary information sources as well as legal online and hard copy updating services.

Due to the way information has been collated we are unable to disaggregate the cost of newspapers and magazines from the overall expenditure, for the timeframe requested, without incurring a disproportionate cost.

Financial year	*Cost (£)*
2005-06	149,032.92
2004-05	160,896.15
2003-04	133,119.30
2002-03	173,411.08
2001-02	131,096.02
2000-01	122,884.86
1999-2000	114,658.81
1998-99	86,627.81
1997-98	95,412.71

Departmental Work Experience

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many interns his Department has engaged in the last 12 months; and how many were *(a)* unpaid, *(b)* remunerated with expenses only and *(c)* paid a salary. [17207]

John Penrose: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave her on 13 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 746W. No interns were paid at national minimum wage or above.

Horse Racing: Betting

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he has considered the merits of franchising the Tote on a basis similar to that of the National Lottery. [16708]

John Penrose: My right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer confirmed in the Budget on 22 June that the Government will, over the next 12 months, resolve the future of the Tote in a way that secures value for the taxpayer while recognising the support the Tote currently provides the racing industry.

A variety of possible approaches are being discussed with different stakeholders, and the Government will continue to talk to all parties with an interest in the Tote during that process. We will announce which structure has been agreed as soon as possible.

Listed Buildings

Alison McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many buildings have been listed *(a)* nationally, *(b)* in the North West and *(c)* in Merseyside in each of the last five years. [17309]

John Penrose: The figures for additions to the statutory list of listed buildings for the last five years have been supplied by English Heritage and are set out in the table:

Number of additions to the statutory list

	Nationally	*North West*	*Merseyside*
2005-06	446	27	5
2006-07	404	26	5
2007-08	491	66	14
2008-09	451	30	19
2009-10	492	46	8

Newspaper Press: Subscriptions

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport to what local newspapers his Department has subscribed in the last five years; on what date each such subscription started; and what the cost to the public purse of such subscriptions has been since 2001 [17085]

John Penrose: In the last five years the Department has subscribed to two local newspapers: the *Yorkshire Post* (from July 2007 to May 2010) at a cost of £450, and the *Exeter Express and Echo* (from June 2009 to May 2010) at a cost of £250. All local newspaper subscriptions were cancelled when the current Secretary of State took office.

Sports: Females

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps he plans to take to increase the number of women on national governing bodies of sport. [16611]

Hugh Robertson: Diversity should be encouraged at all levels in sport, from the boards of the national governing bodies (NGB) of sport to volunteers and participants at grass roots level. Sport England is delivering this through NGB Whole Sport Plans with the support of the Women's Sport and Fitness Foundation.

The Equality Standard in Sport continues to be implemented throughout the NGB and national and regional sports organisations in England. It will make sure that decision-makers in sport respond to the needs of all under-represented individuals, groups and communities, including women and girls.

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with the Women's Sport and Fitness Foundation on increasing the participation of women in sport. [16612]

Hugh Robertson: I have met the Women's Sport and Fitness Foundation (WSFF) and will be looking to have regular discussions with them, as well as the other national partners, to discuss equality and diversity issues in sport.

I have also met with the Commission on the Future of Women's Sport.

The Women's Sport and Fitness Foundation is actively engaged with all national governing bodies of sport, working in a consultancy capacity to advise them individually on the best approach to increasing women's participation in sport.

Tourism

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport which 15 destinations in *(a)* Essex, *(b)* Hertfordshire, *(c)* the City of London area of London and *(d)* the Metropolitan Police area of London were most frequently visited by tourists in each of the last three years. [17362]

John Penrose: This information is not held in the format requested.

Visit England has advised that the United Kingdom Tourism Survey (domestic) data for 2006-09 places the following destinations as being the most frequently visited places in the following areas:.

Essex

- Colchester
- Tendring
- Chelmsford
- Southend-on-Sea
- Uttlesford
- Braintree
- Basildon
- Thurrock
- Epping Forest
- Maldon
- Brentwood
- Harlow
- Castle Point
- Rochford

Hertfordshire

- Dacorum
- St Albans
- Watford

East Hertfordshire
North Hertfordshire
Stevenage
Welwyn Hatfield
Broxbourne
Hertsmere
Three Rivers

Inner London

City of London
Westminster City of
Kensington and Chelsea
Camden
Wandsworth
Lambeth
Hammersmith and Fulham
Southwark
Islington
Haringey
Tower Hamlets
Lewisham
Hackney
Newham

Outer London

Hounslow
Bromley
Croydon
Richmond upon Thames
Bexley
Barnet
Kingston upon Thames
Ealing
Greenwich
Hillingdon
Brent
Merton
Barking and Dagenham
Enfield
Havering

Further data on international tourist destinations in the UK are provided by VisitBritain and can be found on its website at:

http://www.visitbritain.org/insightsandstatistics/inboundvisitorstatistics/regions/towns.aspx

Voluntary Organisations: Contracts

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what contracts his Department has awarded to voluntary sector organisations in the last two years; and what the monetary value was of each such contract. [17608]

John Penrose: Contracts awarded by the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport during the past two financial years to voluntary sector organisations are set out in the table:

Contract	*Supplier*	*Total spend 2008-09 and 2009-10 (£)*
Cultural Contact Point	Visiting Arts	12,500
Promotion of International Arts in the UK	[1]—	300,000
Children's Play Advice and Information Dissemination Service	National Children's Bureau	284,483
Provision of Children's Play Policy and Research Services	Play England (Part of National Children's Bureau)	[1]—
Economic Impact of the 2012 games	Work Foundation	51,112
Play worker Training and Educational Programme	Skills Active	584,000

[1] Indicates brace.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Birds: Nature Conservation

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what *(a)* steps her Department is taking and *(b)* funding her Department provides to encourage an increase in the grey partridge population. [17733]

Richard Benyon: The grey partridge is a farmland species whose population trend is declining. It is currently being targeted by Environmental Stewardship (ES)—an agri-environment scheme, administered by Natural England—that provides financial support to farmers to manage their land effectively for environmental and wildlife outcomes. ES includes a number of land-management options designed to deliver the nesting and year-round feeding habitats required by farmland birds.

Recent research by the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust, funded by Natural England, suggests that three ES groups of options have consistently shown positive effects on farmland birds, including grey partridges. These are: beetle banks; conservation headlands; and wild bird seed mixtures. A total of £34.2 million will be paid to farmers for these three groups of options over the 10-year life of the agreements (initiated since 2005) for tailored management arrangements, known as Higher Level Scheme agreements. In addition, a further £2.57 million was paid in the past 12 months to farmers implementing these options through the Entry Level Scheme, which requires a simpler, generic management approach.

The grey partridge may also benefit from the Campaign for the Farmed Environment work by farmers. This is an industry-led initiative to which DEFRA is contributing £1.5 million over three years. The campaign seeks to improve the environmental benefits of farmland across three schemes including one focused on increasing the populations of species of farmland birds that are currently in decline.

Contracts

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what contracts her Department has awarded to voluntary sector organisations in the last two years; and what the monetary value was of each such contract. [17605]

Richard Benyon: The Department, including its Executive Agencies, have not awarded any contracts for goods and/or services to any identifiable voluntary sector organisations in the last two years.

Dairy Farming: Lincolnshire

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether funding has been *(a)* applied for and *(b)* granted under (i) the Rural Development Programme for England and (ii) another of her Department's programmes in respect of the proposed large-scale dairy farm in Nocton, Lincolnshire. [17115]

Mr Paice: Although an early expression of interest for aid, under the Rural Development Programme for England, was submitted by Nocton Dairies Ltd, no formal application for funding has been received or granted, either under that programme, or under any of the other schemes operated by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

Departmental Legislation

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many statutory duties were placed on local authorities by legislation introduced by her Department and its predecessors in each year since 1997; and if she will make a statement. [17016]

Richard Benyon: The full response to this question could be made only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Manpower

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many officials her Department has appointed on a fixed-term contract since 7 May 2010. [16790]

Richard Benyon: 30 officials were appointed to DEFRA on fixed-term contracts since 7 May 2010, with nine of these appointments made after new recruitment restrictions were put in place on 24 May.

Food: Production

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to ensure that the UK increases its level of self-sufficiency in food production. [16868]

Mr Paice: The Government are committed to supporting British agriculture and encouraging increased UK production. The UK is currently 72% self-sufficient in all indigenous foods, a higher proportion than in the 1950s; the Government wish to see this downward trend reverse. The UK is also a significant exporter of wheat, lamb, dairy products and breakfast cereals.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the proportion of ozone-depleting substances in the UK attributable to *(a)* refrigerators, *(b)* building foams and *(c)* other sources. [16755]

Richard Benyon: We have not made any specific assessment of the proportion of ozone-depleting substances attributable to these different sources. The Department commissioned some independent research last year into the quantity of ozone-depleting substances present in building foams in the UK. This research will be published soon and consideration will be given to whether it could provide a basis for developing guidance for the construction industry on dealing with ozone-depleting substances in building foams.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department has taken to prevent the release of ozone-depleting substances in the construction and demolition industries. [16756]

Richard Benyon: EU Regulation 1005/2009 on substances that deplete the ozone layer requires controlled substances in products and equipment, including building foams, to be recovered for destruction, recycling or reclamation where this is "technically and economically feasible". The technical and economic feasibility of recovering and destroying ozone-depleting substances in building foams at the end of life is currently being considered by the European Commission.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance her Department has issued to *(a)* the Environment Agency, *(b)* local authorities and *(c)* private contractors on the safe use and disposal of materials containing ozone-depleting substances. [16757]

Richard Benyon: The Department has not issued any such guidance. In 2002 the Environment Agency issued guidance on the recovery and disposal of controlled ozone-depleting substances in refrigerators and freezers.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs who is responsible for monitoring the safe and proper disposal of ozone-depleting substances from demolished buildings and demolition sites. [16758]

Richard Benyon: The Environment Agency is responsible for ensuring that any waste is disposed of in accordance with a relevant environmental permit or exemption.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the effect on the *(a)* environment and *(b)* economy of establishing an isolated waste stream for building foam containing ozone-depleting substances arising from demolition. [16759]

Richard Benyon: The Department commissioned some independent research last year which seeks to quantify the amount of ozone-depleting substances present in building foams in the UK and examine the environmental and economic impact of different treatment routes. This research will be published soon and consideration will be given to whether it could provide a basis for developing guidance for the construction industry on dealing with ozone-depleting substances in building foams.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the quantity of ozone-depleting substances which entered landfill sites in each of the last 10 years. [17060]

Richard Benyon: These data are not collected.

Poultry: Animal Welfare

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what recent representations she has received on the introduction of a No. 4 production code for enriched eggs to differentiate them from eggs produced using conventional cages after 1 January 2012; [15428]

(2) what discussions she has had at EU level on the introduction of a ban on eggs and egg products produced from hens housed in conventional cages after 1 January 2012. [15429]

Mr Paice: The UK Government remain entirely committed to the conventional cage ban coming into force on 1 January 2012 and to supporting industry during this transitional stage. I have received many questions and concerns from UK egg industry representatives and egg producers regarding the introduction of a code 4 for eggs. These concerns have been raised with the European Commission which has made it clear that the introduction of an additional production code would be confusing to consumers and thus is not an option it is willing to consider.

I recently wrote to the Commission about my concerns about the possible non-compliance with the EU-wide ban on eggs and egg products produced from hens housed in conventional cages after 1 January 2012 and requested that it begin work on a practical enforcement solution to help manage the transition across Europe. This might be through the introduction of an intra-community ban on the trade in eggs produced by hens still housed in conventional cages after 1 January 2012. In practice this would mean that such eggs may be sold in the member state of production for a limited period only. This will help protect compliant producers and ensure that they are not disadvantaged if there is any delay to the ban, or other member states do not meet the 2012 deadline.

Poultry: EU Law

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she has received recent representations on the effects on *(a)* poultry farms, *(b)* the (i) price and (ii) quality of eggs and *(c)* the welfare of hens of full implementation of the EU regulations on laying hens. [16919]

Mr Paice: DEFRA has ongoing communication with the laying hen industry and I am meeting the British Egg Industry Council very soon. I also recently met with Compassion in World Farming, which included a discussion on laying hen welfare.

Recycling: Planning Permission

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what regulations govern the proximity of industrial recycling sites to residential areas. [17050]

Richard Benyon: Any development or use is subject to the need for planning permission from the relevant planning authority under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. Current planning policy expects local authorities to assess the suitability of proposed sites for waste management facilities against certain locational criteria. These include the physical and environmental constraints on development, existing and proposed neighbouring land uses, and any significant adverse impacts on environmental quality.

The operation of a waste management facility is also subject to an environmental permit under the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010. In prescribed cases the operator of a recycling site facility may benefit from an exemption from the need for a permit. Environmental permits for waste operations are generally granted by the Environment Agency and the agency may only grant a permit for certain 'specified waste management activities' where relevant planning permission is in force.

Rural Areas

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on the measures to retain key services in rural communities. [17972]

Richard Benyon: The Government are committed to ensuring that rural people have fair access to public services, including health, education and transport, and my Department works to ensure that those who are responsible for planning and delivering these services fully understand the rural dimension.

DEFRA also fully recognises the importance of service outlets, such as village shops, post offices and community pubs, as being at the heart of strong and sustainable rural communities and will continue to work with national Government, local authorities, business and civil society partners to support their retention wherever possible.

There are already numerous examples of rural communities taking responsibility for providing these services for themselves, and my Department is keen to support and promote these Big Society approaches to addressing community needs.

Veterinary Services: Procurement

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she has had with veterinary surgeons on her decision to put official veterinarian services out to tender; and whether she has made an estimate of the likely financial effect of the implementation of that decision on small rural veterinary practices. [17177]

Mr Paice: Animal Health (AH) has been engaged with the British Veterinary Association (BVA), the British Cattle Veterinary Association (BCVA) and other stakeholders to discuss proposals in developing a way forward and to consider how the concerns already raised can be mitigated or managed.

While the scope of Official Veterinarian (OV) work is wide, the engagement of private practice OVs is most significant for the delivery of statutory testing for bovine TB. £21 million was paid to OV practices across Great Britain last year; 96% of which was in respect of TB testing of cattle.

Relatively few practices have a large proportion of their income from TB testing. With 660 practices receiving payment for TB testing, only 15 (2%) receive more than £200,000 per year and 84.5% receive less than £50,000.

To help ensure that existing small and medium-sized enterprises are not disadvantaged through a lack of commercial tendering experience, AH plans to provide a series of regional workshops at which the tendering process will be explained and guidance provided.

Water

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what timetable she has set for bringing forward legislative proposals in respect of her Department's White Paper on water. [17582]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA's structural reform plan currently commits us to publishing a Water White Paper in June 2011, and to put any legislative requirements in place by November 2012.

We are currently reviewing this timetable in light of the passage of the Fixed-term Parliaments Bill, taking into account the need for a settled regulatory environment ahead of the next water industry price review.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she has discussed with the Leader of the House the implications for the implementation of proposals in her Department's White Paper on water of the proposed extension of the current Parliamentary session to 2012. [17581]

Richard Benyon: The Secretary of State will be seeking any necessary discussions with the Leader of the House as part of our current consideration of the timetable for legislative requirements resulting from the Water White Paper, due for publication in June next year.

Wood

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will place in the Library a copy of each item of correspondence between herself and the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on illegal logging since her appointment. [16384]

Mr Paice: Information and correspondence relating to the proceedings of Cabinet Committees are generally not disclosed as to do so could harm the frankness and candour of internal discussion.

Wood: EU Law

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 9 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 640W, on timber: EU law, if she will make it her policy to implement the provisions of the EU timber due diligence regulation within the next 12 months. [16682]

Mr Paice: Formal agreement has now been reached on the illegal timber (due diligence) regulation, and we will implement its provisions through a robust and proportionate enforcement regime. We must allow sufficient time to harmonise implementation as far as necessary at the European level to meet the goal of eliminating illegal timber from the EU market. The regulation sets the deadline for implementation at 27 months. Our priority is ensuring the effectiveness of the first-placing prohibition.

Wood: Imports

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 15 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 338W, on wood: EU action, whether she plans to take steps to prohibit shell companies importing illegal timber. [16681]

Mr Paice: The EU illegal timber (due diligence) regulation includes a prohibition on the first placing of illegal timber on the EU market. The use of a shell company to carry out the trade in illegal timber will therefore be prohibited under the regulation.

World War II: Medals

Penny Mordaunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her most recent estimate is of the cost to the public purse of the Women's *(a)* Land Army and *(b)* Timber Corps Badge Scheme. [16950]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 13 October 2010]:* The most recent estimate of expenditure on the scheme set up to acknowledge the efforts of the Women's Land Army and Women's Timber Corps (rounded to the nearest thousand) is £208,000.

TRANSPORT

Biofuels

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his policy is on biofuels. [16867]

Norman Baker: The UK is required to implement the renewable energy directive (RED) and fuel quality directive (FQD), both of which have an impact on biofuels policy.

The RED requires the UK to source 10% of transport energy from renewable sources by 2020. Biofuels are expected to form the major contribution to this target, although electric vehicles and rail will also play a part.

The transport sector also needs to comply with the FQD. This requires the UK to deliver a 6% reduction in greenhouse gas life cycle emissions from our fuels by 2020.

The Government take the issue of biofuel sustainability seriously. The RED and FQD contain mandatory sustainability criteria for biofuels. These include that biofuels must deliver a GHG saving of at least 35%, and must not be sourced from areas of high biodiversity, or from high carbon soils (such as rain forests or wetlands).

All biofuels will have to meet mandatory sustainability criteria in order to be counted towards meeting the targets in the RED and FQD, subject to certain exceptions.

We will be consulting soon on proposals to implement the RED and FQD, including on how to ensure biofuels used in the UK meet mandatory sustainability criteria set out in the directives.

The UK is also awaiting the European Commission's report on the impacts of biofuels on Indirect Land Use Change (ILUC), which is due to report by the end of the year.

Bus Services

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department is taking to encourage bus companies to increase the number of services they provide in rural and small town locations. [17643]

Norman Baker: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 14 October, given to my hon. Friend the Member for Skipton and Ripon (Julian Smith), *Official Report*, column 409W.

Cable Theft

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the cost to the Highways Agency of cable theft in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [17936]

Mike Penning: The Highways Agency does not hold data on cable theft. The agency employs a range of contractors to undertake maintenance and improvement works on the strategic road network. To obtain this information the agency would have to write to all of its service providers contracted over the last three years, which would incur disproportionate costs.

Electric Vehicles

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when his Department plans to publish its response to the consultation on the use of small one-person electric personal vehicles on public roads and cycle tracks. [17127]

Mike Penning: The Department for Transport expects to publish summary results of the electric personal vehicle public consultation and its response to the consultation on the Department for Transport website by the end of October.

Galileo System

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent progress has been made towards the full operational capability of the Galileo system; and what recent estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the Government's contribution to the operation and maintenance of that system. [16642]

Mrs Villiers: Contracts were let by the European Commission earlier this year for three of the six work packages needed to complete the Galileo system. Surrey Satellite Technology secured work worth €236 million to build payloads for 14 satellites from this. The European Commission estimates that the remaining three contracts will be signed by early next year.

The European Commission has not yet set out its proposal for the exploitation phase covering the operation, maintenance, marketing, improvement and renewal of the system from 2014 onwards. The Commission is required to undertake a feasibility study of the advantages and disadvantages of the use of contracts with private sector entities as part of this process since that may save some public funds. The Commission's proposal may be made with the programme's mid-term review which the Commission is legally required to undertake this year.

Galileo is funded from the core EU budget to which all member states contribute. The UK's contribution to the EU budget from 2014 onwards will be decided during the forthcoming negotiations.

Highways Agency Staff: Injuries

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many Highways Agency staff have been *(a)* injured and *(b)* killed while collecting litter from motorways and trunk roads in each of the last five years. [17937]

Mike Penning: The Highways Agency is responsible for picking litter on motorways and a small number of the all-purpose trunk roads.

No Highways Agency staff are involved in picking litter; the work is carried out by the agency's contractors.

The following information shows the number of contractors injured or killed over the last five years.

Number of HA contractors injured and killed while picking litter

	Injured	*Killed*
2005	0	0
2006	1	0
2007	1	0
2008	2	0
2009	4	0
2010	8	0

Humber Bridge: Debts

Mr Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport at how many points above the Bank of England base rate the Humber Bridge Board is paying the interest on its outstanding debt. [17079]

Norman Baker: Details of the current interest rate applied to the debt are detailed in the Humber Bridge (Debts) Order 2007 and the associated explanatory memorandum.

M5

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions *(a)* he has had with the Highways Agency and *(b)* the Highways Agency has had with local businesses on the siting of additional traffic lights on the roundabout at junction 9 of the M5; what assessment he has made of the potential benefit of the proposed traffic management scheme; what the cost to the public purse is of this scheme; and if he will make a statement. [17723]

Mike Penning: The installation of traffic signals at the M5 junction 9 roundabout is part of a programme of safety enhancement schemes carried out by the Highways Agency in its capacity as an executive agency of the Department for Transport. As such, it did not require specific sanction by Ministers.

In its regular review of accident data, the agency identified this location as an injury collision cluster site; that is where there are six or more injury collisions in a five-year period. In this case, there were 12 injury collisions in the most recent five-year period investigated. The scheme cost of £370,000 represents good value for money and is expected to save between five and six injury collisions within the next five years, as well as improving traffic flows through the junction.

There were some difficulties with increased congestion due to other road works taking place nearby which had an impact on the junction 9 roundabout works. Discussions took place with the county council and also local business representatives of Shannon Way Industrial Estate, which resulted in additional signing and adjustments to the timing of nearby traffic signals being implemented.

Motor Vehicles: Registration

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 6 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 183W, on motor vehicles: registration, which organisation carried out the design work and production tests for the redesigned Registration Certificate V5C for vehicles in the UK. [17568]

Mike Penning: The design work and production tests for the redesigned registration certificate (V5C) was carried out by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency in conjunction with its contracted print supplier Stralfors plc.

Motor Vehicles: Testing

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when the MOT test system was last reviewed; what the outcome was of that review; and if he will make a statement. [17720]

Mike Penning: The Department for Transport published the then available evidence base relating to the MOT scheme in 2008. Copies were placed in the Libraries of the House and the document is on the Department's website at:

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+/http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roads/vehicles/mot/mot/motscheme.pdf

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have had with representatives of the motor industry to discuss a review of the MOT test system. [17721]

Mike Penning: Ministers in the Department for Transport have had discussions with various representatives of the motor industry about a wide variety of subjects including the MOT test system.

Parking: Fees and Charges

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department is taking to prevent abuses by private companies and individuals of the system for issuing parking tickets. [15902]

Norman Baker: Since November 2009, it has been compulsory for every parking enforcement company to be a member of an accredited trade association in order to be eligible to receive the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) vehicle keeper data. This applies to companies issuing parking tickets and prevents the release of DVLA information to "rogue" parking companies.

The coalition Government are working closely with industry to improve enforcement practices and the compliance of parking companies with the relevant codes of practice, and with the BPA to develop a non-statutory ombudsman-type complaint system for parking on private land.

Railways: Greater London

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what capital projects are scheduled to take place on railway lines in *(a)* London, *(b)* the London borough of Lambeth and *(c)* Streatham constituency during (i) the remainder of control period 4 and (ii) control period 5. [17711]

Mrs Villiers: Details of Network Rail's investment plans for control period 4 are available within Network Rail's delivery plan documents published on their website. No details regarding control period 5 investments are available as Network Rail's regulatory settlement for that period will not be concluded until around 2013.

Details of investment plans by train operators contained within the franchise agreements are available on the Department for Transport's public register.

Transport for London will be providing additional railway investment via the East London Line extension phase 2 to Clapham Junction, planned to open in 2012.

Details of the appropriate websites are:

http://www.networkrail.co.uk/aspx/6648.aspx

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/rail/passenger/publicregister/current/

Roads: Deaths

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* deaths and *(b)* serious injuries have occurred on roads in Pendle constituency in each of the last five years. [18192]

Mike Penning: The information requested is shown in the following table:

Reported fatalities and serious injuries in road accidents in Pendle constituency[1], 2005-2009

Number

Casualty severity	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Killed	1	0	1	2	9
Seriously injured	57	45	56	40	34

[1] Based on 2010 constituency boundary.

Roads: Noise

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much the Highways Agency spent from its budget for noise mitigation programmes in each year since 1999; and how much it spent on each programme in each such year. [17357]

Mike Penning: Low noise surfacing materials are used as a matter of course when major maintenance is required on the strategic road network. As the noise reduction results are a secondary benefit it would be inappropriate to assign costs from resurfacing to noise reduction alone.

Generally, noise mitigation measures are included as part of the Highways Agency's improvement schemes, where warranted, as it is more cost-effective to do this work concurrently with other scheme works. The cost of these works is subsumed within the overall cost of the individual schemes. Therefore, the exact figure allocated to noise mitigation is difficult to extract without a disproportionate commitment of resource.

However, in addition to the areas listed above, the agency does have an identifiable small programme of works specifically targeting noise mitigation measures in the most serious and pressing cases, where practical and cost-effective measures can be provided. These measures are applied to the entire strategic road network.

Spend on this area, which represents only an element of noise mitigation measures, since 2004-05 is as follows:

	£ million
2004-05	4
2005-06	5
2006-07	3
2007-08	4
2008-09	3
2009-10	6

Wind Power

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on methods to mitigate the effects of wind turbines on air traffic control systems. [17726]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport has not commissioned any research or evaluated the methods to mitigate the impact of wind farms on air traffic control systems.

The independent Civil Aviation Authority regulates the operation of air traffic control systems in the UK and this includes the provision of impartial regulatory advice relating to proposed wind farm mitigation strategies on air traffic control systems.

Before a wind farm can be built, all aviation-related objections must be lifted. Consequently, developers work closely with NATS, airports, the MOD and the Civil Aviation Authority to ensure that suitable mitigations can be identified and implemented, thus enabling their developments to proceed.

WALES

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether she has made an estimate of the change in the level of carbon dioxide emissions from her Department since May 2010; and what steps she plans to take to meet her Department's target of reducing such emissions by 10 per cent. by May 2011. [16819]

Mr David Jones: The Wales Office comes under the umbrella of the Ministry of Justice, and contributes to that Ministry's sustainability framework and targets.

Housing Benefit: Wales

Mr David: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions she has had with *(a)* Ministerial colleagues and *(b)* housing organisations on the effects on Wales of changes to the local housing allowance. [16586]

Mr David Jones: The Secretary of State and I have regular discussions with ministerial colleagues on a range of issues affecting Wales, including housing.

This Government are committed to continuing to provide benefit support to those who need it in order to live in affordable accommodation while removing imbalances in the system.

Identity and Passport Service: Newport Gwent

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales when she was informed of the proposal of the Identity and Passport Service to consult on the future of the Newport Passport Office. [17727]

Mrs Gillan: I had a brief discussion with a Home Office Minister on 5 October who agreed to meet me the following week to further discuss issues relating to the Identity and Passport Service in Newport.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

David Kelly Death Inquiry

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Attorney-General on what dates *(a)* he and *(b)* officials of his Department have held meetings relating to the death of Dr David Kelly since his appointment; and who was present at each such meeting. [16697]

The Attorney-General: I have routine meetings with the Lord Chancellor to discuss a range of issues; these have included matters relating to Dr David Kelly. AGO officials have had similar meetings with counterparts in the Ministry of Justice and the matter has been considered at meetings within my Department. It is not the Department's practice to provide details of such meetings.

Departmental Drinking Water

Nick de Bois: To ask the Attorney-General how much the Law Officers' Departments have spent on bottled water in each year since 2008. [16881]

The Attorney-General: Only the Crown Prosecution Service and the Serious Fraud Office have actually purchased any bottled water since 2008. Unfortunately it is not possible to determine the amount actually spent on bottled water without incurring a disproportionate cost.

Some of the Law Officers' Department have provided staff with bottle-fed water dispensers during this period, the cost of which is outlined in the following tables. All of these contracts have since been discontinued.

Treasury Solicitor's Department

	£
January to December 2009	1,949
January to December 2008	4,347

Attorney-General's Office

	£
In financial year 2008-09	160
In financial year 2009-10	134

Telephone Tapping

Mr Watson: To ask the Attorney-General (1) whether Ministers and officials in his Department have had discussions with the Metropolitan Police Service on its investigation into telephone hacking and blagging since his appointment; [17611]

(2) if he will publish each item of correspondence *(a)* sent and *(b)* received by Ministers in his Department in respect of the Metropolitan Police Service's investigation into telephone hacking and blagging since his appointment. [17612]

The Attorney-General: It would be inappropriate to comment on a matter that is currently being considered by the police.

PRIME MINISTER

Appointments Commission

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 16 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 1145W, on the Appointments Commission, in which circumstances appointments may be made by Departments other than in accordance with the Code of Practice issued by the Commissioner for Public Appointments and the procedure adopted following the Nolan Inquiry; and if he will make a statement. [16664]

The Prime Minister: Appointments within the remit of the Commissioner for Public Appointments are set out in the Public Appointments Order in Council 2002 (as amended). As has been the case under previous Administrations, appointments to posts outside the Commissioner's remit are made on merit and in line with the principles of the Commissioner's code of practice but are not formally bound by the requirements of the code.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr Watson: To ask the Prime Minister how many special advisers have *(a)* been appointed to and *(b)* left the employment of each Government Department since 10 June 2010. [17737]

The Prime Minister: An updated list of special advisers will be published quarterly.

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 15 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 1107W, on departmental ministerial policy advisers, what records of declarations of *(a)* interests, *(b)* gifts and *(c)* hospitality made by special advisers based in No. 10 Downing Street his Department holds for the period before 13 May 2010. [17761]

The Prime Minister: These are the papers of a previous Administration. This Government are committed to publishing on a quarterly basis details of gifts and hospitality received by special advisers.

Government: Ministers

Mr Watson: To ask the Prime Minister what steps he is taking to reduce the number of Government Ministers; and if he will make a statement. [17738]

The Prime Minister: The size of the Government is kept under review.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Prime Minister when he plans to respond to the letter from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton of 30 July 2010, on Mr J. Wilkinson. [17679]

The Prime Minister: A reply has been sent.

National Security Council

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Prime Minister if he will *(a)* publish the agendas and minutes of the National Security Council and *(b)* bring forward proposals to designate that council as a public body under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [17588]

The Prime Minister: The National Security Council is a Cabinet Committee and thus part of central Government. Information relating to the proceedings of Cabinet and Cabinet Committees is generally not disclosed as to do so would put at risk the public interest in both collective responsibility and the full and frank discussion of policy by Ministers. This is consistent with long-standing practice.

News International: News Corporation

Michael Dugher: To ask the Prime Minister whether he has met executives of News International Limited or News Corporation since his appointment. [16716]

Mr Watson: To ask the Prime Minister what meetings he has had with representatives of News International since his appointment; and if he will make a statement. [17452]

The Prime Minister: Information on official meetings by Ministers with external organisations will be published in accordance with the ministerial code.

Pope Benedict XVI

Mr Amess: To ask the Prime Minister what the outcomes were of his meeting with Pope Benedict XVI; and if he will make a statement. [R] [17367]

The Prime Minister: I refer my hon. Friend to the Joint Communiqué between HM Government and the Papal delegation published on Friday 17 September 2010. This is available on the Number 10 website

http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/topstorynews/2010/09/joint-communique-between-hm-government-and-the-papal-delegation-55157

I also refer my hon. Friend to the press notice issued by my Office on Monday 20 September 2010 which can be found at

http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/latest-news/2010/09/pope-benedict-xvi-concludes-visit-to-uk-55193

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Burma: Refugees

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans his Department has to increase the level of funding provided to refugees from Burma who are in camps in Thailand. [17791]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) has more than doubled its total support for Burmese refugees in Thailand since 2007-08. We have allocated £1.1 million to the Thailand Burma Border Consortium (TBBC) for 2011, the majority of which will be used to provide food and shelter for refugees in Thailand.

In addition, we plan to provide around £650,000 to the International Rescue Committee to improve access to legal assistance for refugees in Thailand in 2010-11.

The overall size of DFID's future programme in Burma will be decided on the basis of the bilateral aid review and the results of the comprehensive spending review.

Departmental Drinking Water

Nick de Bois: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has spent on bottled water in each year since 2008. [16873]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) UK offices have filtered mains water supplies and have not purchased bottled water since 2008.

DFID does not maintain a central record of expenditure on bottled water for our overseas offices. This information cannot be supplied without incurring disproportionate cost. All expenditure is incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Departmental Manpower

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many officials his Department has appointed on fixed-term contracts since 7 May 2010. [16795]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) has appointed one person on a fixed term contract since 7 May 2010. The period of the contract was from 13 May 2010 to 11 June 2010.

Departmental Work Experience

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many interns his Department has engaged in the last 12 months; and how many were *(a)* unpaid, *(b)* remunerated with expenses only and *(c)* paid a salary. [17209]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) has not engaged any interns in the last 12 months.

Developing Countries: Co-operatives

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his policy is on *(a)* providing support and building capacity for co-operatives in developing countries and *(b)* enabling smallholders to form secondary co-operatives in such countries. [17247]

Mr O'Brien: Co-operatives are key partners in the fight against poverty in many low income countries. The Department for International Development's (DFID's) Food Retail Industry Challenge Fund (FRICH) provides funding to co-operatives which, for example, are helping smallholder Kenyan farmers in co-operatives to access a guaranteed market for the tea they produce. Co-operatives are also eligible to apply to the Department's Business Innovation Facility. In addition our new funding instruments for private sector development will be designed to be accessible to co-operatives.

DFID does not have a specific policy on enabling smallholders to form secondary co-operatives. However we do recognise their importance as one way for smallholders to capture more of the value chain and increase their incomes. These are key objectives that we support through our funding for fair trade, private sector enterprise and civil society, a good example of which I have seen for myself in Rwanda as part of a DFID-funded Social Protection Programme.

Developing Countries: Disease Control

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding his Department provides for *(a)* research into and *(b)* projects countering (i) malaria, (ii) dengue fever, (iii) dysentery and (iv) yellow fever overseas. [16714]

Mr O'Brien: In 2009, the Department for International Development (DFID) provided a total of £8 million for research into malaria and is finalising a new £5.5 million programme of research to address resistance to artemisinin drugs, currently the mainstay of malaria treatment. In 2009 DFID provided £4 million to the WHO Special Programme on Tropical Disease Research (TDR), which includes research into dengue, dysentery and yellow fever.

In 2009, DFID provided £150 million to tackle malaria. At the recent UN Millennium Development summit, the UK made a substantial commitment to help reduce malaria deaths by at least 50% in at least 10 high-burden countries by 2015, backed up by an increase in funding to as much as £500 million per year by 2014. Individual amounts for programme spend are not available for dengue and yellow fever. To reduce diarrhoeal disease, such as dysentery, £87 million was spent in 2009, on water, sanitation and hygiene programmes.

Developing Countries: Family Planning

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 13 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 1762W, on developing countries: family planning, what estimate he made of the cost to the public purse of providing the information requested; and if he will make a statement. [17370]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) holds many files relating to the United Nations Population Fund, the International Planned Parenthood Federation and Marie Stopes International both within the UK and throughout DFID's overseas offices. Since 2005 files are held electronically in DFID's electronic data records management system. Files pre-dating 2005 are held in paper format both within the UK and in the relevant country offices. To provide information on all files would incur costs in excess of £800 in terms of staff hours spent collating this information, and is therefore deemed disproportionate.

Developing Countries: Maternity Services

Mr Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department has allocated to each country for *(a)* reproductive health and *(b)* abortion services in the last three years; and what assessment he has made of the effects on those services of his Department's expenditure. [16630]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development's (DFID's) expenditure in individual sectors, as recorded by its sector code system, were published on 7 October in 'Statistics on International Development'. The amount spent on reproductive health care is reproduced in the following table. Expenditure on abortion services is not captured under any single sector code and we are, therefore, unable to provide this information without incurring disproportionate cost.

Financial year	*Amount (£000)*
2007-08	18,621
2008-09	36,466
2009-10	43,196

Reproductive, maternal and child health is a major priority for the UK Government. DFID is currently developing a new business plan based on the best evidence available of what works, to increase dramatically our impact in addressing deaths and illness caused by poor reproductive, maternal and newborn health. This will include action to increase coverage of effective services and to reach those who might not usually have access to health services, including those suffering the consequences of unsafe abortion.

We are currently reviewing all our development spending to maximise the effectiveness of the UK's development efforts.

International Assistance

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he plans to take to encourage global efforts to provide funding to achieve the UN Millennium Development Goals on health, women and children by 2015; and if he will make a statement. [16896]

Mr O'Brien: The UK is at the forefront of global efforts to accelerate progress on women and children's health. The UK was one of the core partners in the development of UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's Global Strategy for Women and Children's Health, aimed at saving the lives of more than 16 million women and children. In recent months we have been working closely with the United Nations, the G8 and other partners to secure new financial and policy commitments in support of the global strategy which was launched at the recent Millennium Development Goals summit.

The launch was accompanied by an unprecedented $40 billion in commitments for maternal and child health. The UK announced that it will save the lives of at least 50,000 women in pregnancy and childbirth, 250,000 newborn babies and enable 10 million couples to access modern methods of family planning over the next five years, backed by a doubling of financial support. We are working closely with others to develop a strong accountability framework to ensure outcomes are tracked and commitments delivered.

International Assistance: Environment Protection

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking towards meeting the Millennium Development Goal on environmental sustainability. [16860]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) is playing an active role in supporting progress towards the Millennium Development Goal on environmental sustainability. In 2009-10 UK aid enabled around 5.1 million of the world's poorest people to gain access to clean water and 16.3 million to basic sanitation. Through the joint United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Poverty and Environment Initiative, DFID has supported 22 developing countries to integrate environmental sustainability into national planning processes. With DFID support, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) has delivered over 750 projects in 155 countries to improve the management of biodiversity. We also provided support during the preparatory stages to the World Bank's partnership for the valuation of natural resource assets, which will enable six to 10 developing countries to incorporate the value of their natural assets into their national accounts to strengthen sustainable economic growth. In addition, DFID is strengthening its environmental screening procedures, and incorporating climate change assessments.

International Assistance: Fossil Fuels

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will take steps to seek to end World Bank assistance for fossil fuel extraction and transport projects. [16859]

Mr Duncan: The Secretary of State is currently reviewing the Department for International Development's (DFID's) position regarding the energy lending of the multilateral development banks in the light of our commitment to poverty reduction and tackling climate change.

I will write to the hon. Member when decisions have been made.

Pakistan: Floods

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what his most recent assessment is of the humanitarian situation in Pakistan following the recent floods; [17770]

(2) what steps his Department plans to take to assist recovery work following the recent floods in Pakistan. [17771]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: I refer the hon. Member to my written statement of 12 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 12WS, which contains a detailed assessment of the humanitarian situation in Pakistan and explains UK support for the relief and early recovery work in response to the floods.

Pakistan: Overseas Aid

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of delivery of humanitarian aid in Pakistan. [17394]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: We continue to work with the international community and Government of Pakistan to ensure an effective humanitarian operation.

For further details I refer my hon. Friend to my written statement of 12 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 12WS, which sets our assessment of the current humanitarian operation in Pakistan.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether he has made an estimate of the change in the level of carbon dioxide emissions from his Department since May 2010; and what steps he plans to take to meet his Department's target of reducing such emissions by 10% by May 2011. [16815]

Mr Paterson: The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) monitors its carbon dioxide emissions on a regular basis and these are published on a yearly basis. Officials are working closely with the newly formed Efficiency and Reform Group to ensure my Department meets its target by May 2011.

Departmental Drinking Water

Nick de Bois: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department has spent on bottled water in each year since 2008. [16872]

Mr Paterson: The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) no longer purchases bottled water. The use of bottled water was phased out in NIO buildings in the period March 2008 to October 2008.

Northern Ireland Office policy is that where staff have access to tap water which is of drinking water quality, they should not continue to be provided with bottled water.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps his Department is taking to improve its level of compliance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [16935]

Mr Paterson: The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) has achieved compliance levels of 95%, with permitted extensions, for FOI requests received during the first two monitoring quarters of 2010.

The importance of compliance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 is regularly highlighted at Management Board meetings. The NIO continues to monitor its processes for information requests and works closely with the Information Commissioners Office to ensure that these high levels of compliance are maintained.

Intelligence Services

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent assessment he has made of arrangements for *(a)* intelligence gathering for security purposes in Northern Ireland and *(b)* contacts between the Police Service of Northern Ireland and the Security Service. [16690]

Mr Paterson: Lord Carlile, who carries out an independent assessment of the arrangements for handling national security in Northern Ireland, provided me with his second annual report earlier this year. Copies of his report were placed in the Libraries of the House on 15 September. In it, he comments that he is:

> "firmly of the view that the Security Service is as likely to gather information for the protection of the public as is possible using proper means, compatible with the principles of liberty applicable in a democratic society such as our own."

He goes on to observe that:

> "the Service Level Agreements between the Security Service and the PSNI have been in operation for about two years and well tested. There has developed a good degree of partnership between the two organisations, different though they are in nature, history and purpose. ... There are many examples of advantages resulting from the new arrangements. They include greater interaction between the services, better handling and organisation of covert human intelligence resources, improved debriefing practices, and more effective use of equipment for intelligence gathering purposes. The Security Service and the PSNI continue to learn from each other."

He concludes that:

> "The now established national security arrangements for Northern Ireland work more efficiently than analogous arrangements described to me elsewhere in the democratic world, and in a more acceptable human rights context than anywhere comparable. ... I am satisfied that the work of the Security Service now being carried out in Northern Ireland will continue to make a significant and increasing contribution to the national security of the whole of the UK."

I was pleased to accept, and entirely agree with, Lord Carlile's report.

Public Expenditure

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) if he will guarantee the Government's undertaking to provide £18 billion to the Northern Ireland Executive for political institutions and infrastructure development and renewal; and if he will make a statement; [16689]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the Prime Minister and *(b)* the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the criteria to apply to the determination of the financial allocation for the Northern Ireland block grant in the comprehensive spending review. [16936]

Mr Paterson: These are matters that are under consideration as part of the spending review that is currently under way.

As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Security Structure

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on what date the security structure of Northern Ireland was last reviewed; whether any capital expenditure priorities were identified as a result; and if he will make a statement. [17342]

Mr Paterson: I meet regularly with the Chief Constable and my security advisors to discuss the security situation and security structure in Northern Ireland. It is for the Chief Constable and other budget holders within the security structure to identify capital expenditure priorities, in line with the demands of their organisations.

Terrorism

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent assessment he has made of the security threat from paramilitary groups in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [16822]

Mr Paterson: The threat level in Northern Ireland remains at severe, meaning terrorist attacks are highly likely. So far this year there have been 37 attacks. To date in 2010 there have been 180 arrests and 64 persons charged with terrorist offences. This compares to 106 arrests and 17 charges in the whole of 2009. While these terrorists pose a serious challenge, the security forces have the manpower, resources and ability to meet the threat.

Welfare State: Reform

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* his ministerial colleagues have had with the Northern Ireland Executive on (i) proposed changes to the benefit and welfare system and (ii) the level of employment in Northern Ireland. [16601]

Mr Paterson: Responsibility for these matters is largely devolved to the Northern Ireland Assembly, but Executive Ministers do discuss matters of mutual interest with my ministerial colleagues and me. The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions recently met with the Northern Ireland Minister for Employment and Learning and the Minister for Social Development to discuss welfare reform.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Work Experience

18. **Mary Macleod:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what opportunities his Department provides for jobseekers to undertake work experience. [17498]

Chris Grayling: Work experience of two to 13 weeks is currently available to qualifying 18 to 24-year-old non-graduate jobseekers. Graduates are encouraged to apply for internships through the graduate talent pool. Work experience is also made available for customers of all ages who are in non-flexible new deal areas through the appropriate new deal option.

Child Poverty

19. **Yvonne Fovargue:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effect on levels of child poverty of the proposed £26,000 benefit cap. [17499]

Maria Miller: A full impact assessment will be published alongside the forthcoming Welfare Reform White Paper.

This Government are committed to tackling child poverty and will set out more detail in our Child Poverty Strategy which will be published before the end of March 2011.

The cap will take into account the average earnings of working families—which we estimate will be around £26,000 per year, £500 per week, when the cap comes into effect. This equates to a salary of £35,000 (for a single worker) before income tax and national insurance.

Employment Assistance

20. **Dr Huppert:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent discussions he has had with third sector organisations on their role in helping people back to work. [17501]

Chris Grayling: DWP continues to engage and acknowledge the vital role the third sector plays in helping people back to work and informing policy.

During the summer we held consultation events across GB to engage voluntary and community sector organisations in our plans for the Work Programme and welfare reform more generally. We also supported events with the Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations (ACEVO), Association of Learning Providers (ALP) and the Employment Related Services Association (ERSA).

We also have regular meetings with the British Association for Supported Employment (BASE) and regionally with the Community and Voluntary Forum East of England (COVER) and the next meeting is 18 October when JCP will be outlining the options and opportunities within the Get Britain Working programme.

Work Capability Assessment

21. **Richard Fuller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to improve the quality and accuracy of the work capability assessment. [17502]

Chris Grayling: We believe that the work capability assessment is effective at identifying a person's functional capability for work and work-related activity and very much more so than its predecessor the personal capability Assessment.

In March this year the Department led a review which engaged closely with experts and specialist disability charities. We are now implementing the recommendations of this review, which will improve the fairness and accuracy of the work capability assessment.

We are committed to continuing this process of review and improvement and to ensure that it is as robust as possible, particularly ahead of the reassessment of existing incapacity benefits cases commencing in April next year. As you may be aware we are required by statute to undertake an independent review annually for the first five years following introduction of employment and support allowance. We recently announced that the first review is being led by Professor Malcolm Harrington. We are also pleased that Paul Farmer, CEO of Mind, is sitting on the review's scrutiny group, which will provide advice and challenge to the lead reviewer.

We expect to receive Professor Harrington's report later in the year and will then carefully consider any recommendations he makes.

Compulsory Retirement Age

22. **Mark Menzies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent representations he has received on the Government's proposals to abolish the compulsory retirement age. [17503]

Steve Webb: We are currently consulting on our proposals to phase out the default retirement age. The consultation closes on 21 October and the Government intend to publish their response in autumn 2010.

We have already received several hundred responses from individuals, employers and stakeholder groups.

Pensions

23. **Mr Andrew Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the average change in payments to pensioners as a result of restoring the link between the level of state pension and average earnings. [17504]

Steve Webb: On top of restoring the earnings link the triple guarantee will ensure that the basic state pension will be increased each year by the highest of earnings, prices or 2.5%.

This will mean that the average person reaching state pension age in 2011 can expect to receive an additional £15,000 in basic state pension over their retirement.

Disabled People: Employment

24. **Mr Gyimah:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate he has made of the proportion of disabled people who are in employment. [17505]

Maria Miller: For people of working age, the employment rate for disabled people is currently 48.4%. This compares with the overall working age employment rate of 72.2%, a gap of almost 24 percentage points.

The coalition Government are committed to reducing this gap.

Work Choice, our specialist programme for disabled people, will begin on 25 October 2010.

We stated in the Coalition Agreement that we will reform Access to Work, the programme which funds adjustments to help people enter and remain in work, so disabled people can apply for jobs with funding already secured for any adaptations and equipment they will need. We are currently considering how to do this and an announcement will be made in due course.

Cold Weather Payments

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households in the Warrington weather station areas received cold weather payments in the financial year 2009-10. [17904]

Steve Webb: In 2009-10, postcodes in Warrington were linked to either Crosby or Woodford weather stations. The available information is given in the following table.

Estimated number of benefit units that received cold weather payments in 2009-10

	Number
Crosby weather station	278,900
Woodford weather station	212,000

Notes:

1. The figures are for each weather station as a whole, not for the part of Warrington linked to the weather station.
2. Figures are estimates only, as actual data are not available.
3. Cold weather payments are made to benefit units rather than to households. A benefit unit can be a single person or a couple and can include children.
4. Eligible benefit units in Warrington received more than one cold weather payment in 2009-10.
5. Each of the weather stations listed also covers an area that is not part of Warrington.
6. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 100.

Sources:

1. Scans of benefit computer systems taken at the end of October 2009 giving the number of potential qualifiers for cold weather payments by weather station.
2. Department for Work and Pensions records of triggers.
3. Department for Work and Pensions records of the total number of payments actually made by benefit computer system and clerically.

Departmental Billing

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average cost to his Department was of processing the payment of an invoice in the latest period for which figures are available; and what proportion of invoices settled in that period his Department paid *(a)* electronically and *(b)* by cheque. [16173]

Chris Grayling: The average cost of processing the payment of an invoice in the latest period (August) for which figures are available is:

	£
Electronic	1.60
Manual	3.41

These costs include all controllable costs and shared services and DWP overheads eg accommodation and IT.

During this period 99.33% of invoices were settled electronically and 0.67% settled by cheque.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has made an estimate of the change in the level of carbon dioxide emissions from his Department since May 2010; and what steps he plans to take to meet his Department's target of reducing such emissions by 10% by May 2011. [16820]

Chris Grayling: The following table gives details of the consumption and associated carbon emissions for DWP reported since May this year. A total is given for the first quarter (April to June), as monthly reporting only commenced in July; thereafter monthly data are provided. A quarterly reconciliation is undertaken to correct and resolve any monthly estimates using metered data. Carbon performance continues to be regularly scrutinised by senior management as part of routine governance arrangements.

	kWh			
	Electricity	*Gas*	*Oil*	*Carbon (Tonnes)*
April to June Q1 total	57,205,762	39,943,002	1,081,483	38,553
July	19,237,683	5,238,563	242,410	11,430
August	18,917,170	4,264,976	635,375	11,177
September	18,798,889	7,614,129	534,714	11,703
Quarter 2 total	56,953,742	17,117,668	1,412,499	34,310

The Department has put in place a comprehensive range of measures to address carbon emissions from the estate. To generate engagement throughout the management structure we have used the improved data resulting from our installation of "smart meters" to set specific reduction targets for all the Department's businesses. They in turn ensure these are cascaded to site level where Energy Champions are in place to lead local action. A tailored pack of information is available for use at site level to promote energy efficiency and carbon reduction.

Technical solutions, such as improved lighting controls, resulting from individual site audits are being delivered by our estate partner Telereal Trillium. A combined heat and power (CHP) plant is being installed in Quarry house in Leeds, which is estimated to deliver both carbon and financial savings (428 tonnes CO_2 and £93,000 p.a. respectively). Additional CHP opportunities are being assessed. We are also working with the Carbon Trust to identify funding schemes for further low-carbon energy generation initiatives such as solar, wind and biomass.

We launched our AWaRE (Avoid Waste and Reduce Energy) campaign formally at the beginning of June. Working in conjunction with Telereal Trillium, this actively promotes to all staff the part they can play in meeting the 10% challenge. Information has been made available and is continually promoted to encourage staff to adopt energy efficient practices (such as using the 'off' switch). In addition, the Department's executive team have agreed a further package of measures designed to generate further savings, such as:

Challenging the need for unnecessary equipment and removing it where need is not proven.

Ensuring buildings are not heated outside normal occupancy hours.

Ensuring that where buildings are used outside normal office hours, staff are brigaded together where operationally and logistically possible, so that additional heating and lighting are used most efficiently.

Disabling cooling in buildings between November and April unless there is a proven need, at the same time as restricting access to heating and cooling controls.

Site Energy Champions reporting direct to building senior responsible officers.

Including environmental issues formally within the remit of local health and safety committees.

Departmental Manpower

Nick Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff the *(a)* Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, *(b)* Pensions Protection

Fund, *(c)* Health and Safety Executive, *(d)* Pensions Ombudsman and *(e)* Jobcentre Plus employed on the latest date for which figures are available. [16101]

Chris Grayling: The number of full-time equivalent staff employed by *(a)* Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, *(b)* Pensions Protection Fund, *(c)* Health and Safety Executive, *(d)* Pensions Ombudsman and *(e)* Jobcentre Plus as at 30 June 2010 is set out as follows:

Business area	*Number*
Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission	8,330
Pensions Protection Fund	293
Health and Safety Executive	3,587
Pensions Ombudsman	35
Jobcentre Plus	80,191

Note:
Staff working for the Pensions Protection Fund and the Pensions Ombudsman are not civil servants.

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many employees of his Department *(a)* at each grade and *(b)* in each directorate are employed at its Norcross site. [16719]

Chris Grayling: The number of staff, in each grade and agency/business directorate, employed at the Norcross site is shown in the following table. The latest available data are at 30 June 2010.

	Agency/business directorate			
Grade	*Jobcentre Plus*	*Pensions, Disability and Carers Service*	*Corporate and Shared Services*	*DWP total*
A/AA	—	11	20	31
B/AO	—	56	225	281
C/EO	1	155	283	439
D/HEO	—	90	273	363
E/SEO	—	36	173	209
F/G7	—	13	89	102
G/G6	1	3	41	45
SCS	0	2	8	10
Grand total	2	366	1,112	1,480

Departmental Work Experience

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many interns his Department has engaged in the last 12 months; and how many were *(a)* unpaid, *(b)* remunerated with expenses only and *(c)* paid a salary. [17215]

Chris Grayling: DWP has not engaged either unpaid internships, or unpaid interns receiving expenses only in the last 12 months (according to the best information available).

The Department has employed a total of 110 interns on salary equivalent above the national minimum wage. This number is made up of several managed programmes consisting of summer placements or professional routeways managed at civil service level, short-term internships and the graduate internship programme as part of Backing Young Britain.

Disability Living Allowance

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has assessed the merits of bringing forward proposals for a means test for disability living allowance; and if he will make a statement. [15618]

Maria Miller: Commitments were made in the Emergency Budget to reform DLA, which is a universal benefit. We will introduce an objective assessment from 2013 to ensure that it supports those with the greatest need on a consistent and transparent basis.

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with which representative organisations his Department has had discussions on its proposed reforms to disability living allowance. [16721]

Maria Miller: We have held initial discussions on proposed reforms with disabled people and a broad range of representative organisations including representatives of Equality 2025, Radar and the Disability Benefits Consortium.

In developing the new assessment announced by the Chancellor in the Emergency Budget, we are working with an independent group of specialists in the fields of health and disability and representatives of the disabled people.

We will have ongoing discussions to ensure that our reforms will assess more accurately and consistently who would benefit most from additional support, while continuing to tackle the inequalities that can arise from severe disability.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answers to the hon. Member for Dwyfor Meirionnydd of 16 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 1154W, on social security benefits: welfare examinations, whether his Department provided the figures given in the June 2010 Budget Red Book for the projected savings from the new assessment to be introduced for all disability living allowance claimants from 2013-14; and what account the present process of developing options for the new assessment is taking of such projected savings. [17184]

Maria Miller: The projected savings from a new assessment for disability living allowance are based on DWP forecasts of working age disability living allowance benefit expenditure. The methodology to estimate the savings was agreed by DWP and HMT officials and was subject to scrutiny by the Office for Budget Responsibility. The methodology for estimating the savings is set out in the Budget 2010 policy costings document[1].

The new assessment, which we are developing with the help of specialists in the fields of health and disability and representatives of disabled people, is being designed to assess more accurately, objectively and consistently those disabled people who would benefit from support to reduce the barrier they face to participating in society as a result of their disability. One factor being considered in developing options for the new assessment is the need for reform of disability living allowance to deliver savings of 20% of working age expenditure.

[1] http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/junebudget_costings.htm

Employment Schemes

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will take steps to ensure that skills identified by local enterprise partnerships are reflected in the development of the single Work Programme. [17584]

Chris Grayling: The precise Work Programme design is still in the process of being finalised. However, we are committed to working directly with local enterprise partnerships with an interest in worklessness to discuss ideas around the Work Programme and explore how we can work most effectively together.

Our framework for commissioning the Work Programme sets out clearly our commitment to engaging with local partners. We are actively encouraging potential Work Programme providers to work with local partners, including local enterprise partnerships, to understand local labour market and skills needs. That detailed knowledge of local needs will ensure the Work Programme offers the best mix of personalised support to help people back to work.

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will discuss with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills the mechanism whereby his Department's single Work Programme can contribute to the objectives of local enterprise partnerships. [17585]

Chris Grayling: The Department for Work and Pensions and Jobcentre Plus will be embarking upon a series of meetings with the Department for Business Innovation and Skills, the Department for Communities and Local Government and others to evaluate the specific requests made of Departments within the local enterprise partnerships proposals.

Government will publish shortly a White Paper on our approach to sub-national economic development. This will set out further detail of local enterprise partnerships policy.

Future Jobs Fund: East Ayrshire

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many residents of East Ayrshire aged *(a)* between 18 and 24 years and *(b)* over 24 years who had been out of work and claiming jobseeker's allowance for more than six months have found employment through the future jobs fund since the Fund was established. [17523]

Chris Grayling: The Young Person's Guarantee statistics were published on 13 October 2010 and are available here:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=ypg

Statistics are available on the future jobs fund which cover the period from October 2009 to July 2010. They show that 5,870 people were placed in temporary roles via the future jobs fund in Scotland. The information requested for East Ayrshire is not available.

Incapacity Benefit

Miss Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the transitional protection given to former invalidity benefit claimants when incapacity benefit arrangements were changed will be applied when incapacity benefit is migrated to employment and support allowance. [15973]

Chris Grayling: When invalidity benefit customers had their benefit changed to incapacity benefit in 1995, they received transitional protection that meant they had their existing level of benefit protected. Their awards then continued to be uprated in line with the arrangements for incapacity benefit. This meant that their benefit maintained its value but that they continued to be paid incapacity benefit at a higher rate than many new claimants to incapacity benefit. This remains the case.

These transitional arrangements will not continue on conversion to employment and support allowance. However, new transitional arrangements will be put in place.

When a customer moves from any of the old-style incapacity benefits to employment and support allowance, the cash level of their benefit will be protected. However, it will not continue to be uprated beyond the protected level. If the employment and support allowance rate they are entitled to is less than the amount they received on their old benefit, they will receive a transitional addition to make up the difference. The amount of benefit they receive will then not rise with annual uprating, but will be frozen until the rate of employment and support allowance catches up. Over time, all recipients of employment and support allowance will therefore receive comparable awards, dependent on capability.

Incapacity Benefit: Aberdeen

Miss Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many residents of *(a)* Aberdeen South constituency and *(b)* Aberdeen city have been on incapacity benefit since before April 1995. [16007]

Chris Grayling: The information is provided in the following table:

Incapacity benefit (IB) and severe disablement allowance (SDA) claimants in Aberdeen local authority and Aberdeen South parliamentary constituency, by duration, as of February 2010

	All durations	*Claimants on IB/SDA since April 1995 or earlier*
Aberdeen local authority	8,570	1,740
Aberdeen South parliamentary constituency	2,860	620

Notes:
1. Case load has been rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Data do not include claimants of employment and support allowances (ESA).
3. Durations refer to IB/SDA awards.
4. Parliamentary constituency at May 2010.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate 100% WPLS.

As there is no parliamentary constituency for Aberdeen city, we have provided figures for the number of people in the Aberdeen local authority area in receipt of incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance.

Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the industrial injuries disablement benefit will be included in the proposed cap on total household benefits. [17572]

Maria Miller: We expect the benefit cap to apply to the combined income from all main out-of-work benefits. However, we will exempt all households with someone entitled to disability living allowance, which will include many of those receiving industrial injuries disablement benefit.

Jobcentre Plus: Gloucester

Richard Graham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the transport and associated costs were of processing paperwork from the Jobcentre Plus centre in Gloucester at the Jobcentre Plus Benefit Delivery Centre in St Austell, Cornwall in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [16111]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what the transport and associated costs were of processing paperwork from the Jobcentre Plus centre in Gloucester at the Jobcentre Plus Benefit Delivery Centre in St Austall, Cornwall in each of the last five years.

Prior to January 2010 there was a mixture of centrally and locally purchased couriers and Jobcentre Plus's own fleet of delivery vehicles.

Since January 2010 the transport of benefit processing paperwork between Gloucester Jobcentre (at Cedar House, Spa Road, Gloucester) and St Austell Benefit Delivery Centre (at Treleaven House, South Street, St Austell), has been carried as part of the Cross Government Courier (CGC) Contract with TNT. This contract provides a range of courier services to the Department for Work and Pensions and to HM Revenue and Customs.

Costs related to the current CGC contract, and prior arrangements for courier services made over the past five years, are generally charged centrally within the Department of Work and Pensions, and are unfortunately not sufficiently detailed to show the movement of documents between these sites.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Fraud

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were prosecuted for fraudulent claims for jobseeker's allowance in each of the last three years; and how many of those had addresses in Dartford constituency. [15717]

Chris Grayling: Information on the number of people in England and Wales prosecuted for benefit fraud in each of the last years is as follows:

	Number
2007-08	9,538
2008-09	8,701
2009-10	7,709

The number of prosecutions arising from fraudulent claims for jobseeker's allowance is not available.

The reduction in prosecution levels over the last three years arises from changes to DWP's sanctions regime. More low-value, first-time, admitted frauds are now dealt with by way of a caution or administrative penalty, allowing resources to be re-directed to higher-value, complex and more serious cases.

Information on the number of people prosecuted for benefit fraud with addresses in Dartford constituency is not available.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Lone Parents

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many lone parents are in receipt of jobseeker's allowance in Cumbernauld, Kilsyth and Kirkintilloch East constituency. [16318]

Chris Grayling: In July 2010 there were 120 lone parents claiming jobseeker's allowance in Cumbernauld, Kilsyth and Kirkintilloch East.

The figure has been rounded to the nearest five.

Occupational Pensions

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has for automatic enrolment into workplace pensions in 2012. [17441]

Steve Webb: The Government remain committed to introducing automatic enrolment to bring about a step change in our savings culture.

We have now received the recommendations of our independent review into how best to support the implementation of automatic enrolment, and will make a statement on our plans shortly.

Pension Funds: Trusts

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will bring forward legislative proposals to ensure that pension fund trustees and their agents are required to *(a)* design and *(b)* follow a strategy to discharge the duties of ownership of their funds and promote their good governance. [17239]

Steve Webb: The law already requires that an occupational pension scheme's "Statement of Investment Principles" must include a declaration of the extent to which social, environmental and ethical considerations are taken into account in the scheme's investments. The statement must also include the scheme's policy (if any) in relation to the exercise of the rights (including voting rights) attaching to the investments. We have no current plans to introduce additional prescriptive legislative requirements on pension funds.

Social Security Benefits

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has made a recent estimate of the number of households which will be affected by the planned cap on total benefit payments *(a)* nationally, *(b)* in London, *(c)* in Lambeth borough and (d) in Streatham constituency. [17785]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not available.

The Chancellor's announcement about the benefit cap was informed by high-level consideration of the broad impacts. We are now working up the more detailed design of the cap as part of the spending review. When we introduce legislation for the implementation of the caps, we shall publish a full impact assessment.

Social Security Benefits: Dartford

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households in Dartford constituency include one or more *(a)* disability living allowance and *(b)* jobseeker's allowance claimants. [17635]

Maria Miller: The information requested is not available by household. The number of claimants of jobseeker's allowance and disability living allowance (in payment) in Dartford constituency is in the following table

	Caseload
Jobseeker's allowance	1,891
Disability living allowance	3,890

Notes:
1. Caseload data for disability living allowance are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Figures on disability living allowance are available in the House of Commons Library.
3. Jobseeker's allowance data are published at:
https://www.nomisweb.co.uk
Disability living allowance data are published at:
http://83.244.183.180/100pc/tabtool.html
4. JSA figures are unrounded as this is the approved convention followed by ONS for this particular data source.
5. Parliamentary constituency of claimant (Westminster) is for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.
6. For jobseeker's allowance, the latest data currently available are September 2010. For disability living allowance, the latest data currently available are February 2010.

Source:
Jobseeker's allowance: Count of unemployment-related benefits, Jobcentre Plus computer systems (including clerically held cases).
Disability living allowance: DWP Information Directorate 100% WPLS

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many non-UK residents have been prosecuted for fraudulent benefit claims in each of the last three years. [15604]

Chris Grayling: Information on the number of non-UK residents prosecuted for fraudulent benefit claims in each of the last three years is not available. At the time a summons (also known as a requisition) is issued each person would have an address in England or Wales.

Social Security Benefits: Medical Examinations

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether there is provision for disability benefit claimants to have medical examinations undertaken by Welsh speakers. [16141]

Chris Grayling: There is provision to provide a Welsh language service for those claimants who are resident in Wales for correspondence, telephone and face-to-face communications as well as published and printed materials.

State Retirement Pensions: Uprating

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the effect on private sector pension liabilities of the planned change in uprating from the consumer prices index to the retail prices index. [15543]

Steve Webb: The consumer prices index (CPI) will be used to determine the minimum amounts for indexation and revaluation of private sector pension schemes going forward. The impact will vary depending on how individual schemes respond to changes to the minimum amounts, and that will be a matter for them to decide within the terms of their scheme rules. The Government expect to consult shortly on whether or not to make provision for schemes that find it difficult to change their rules.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the financial effect on a pensioner of average income of the restoration of a link between pensions and earnings. [17440]

Steve Webb: On top of restoring the earnings link the triple guarantee will ensure that the basic state pension will be increased each year by the highest of earnings, prices or 2.5%.

This will mean that the average person reaching state pension age in 2011 can expect to receive an additional £15,000 in basic state pension over their retirement.

Vocational Training

Mr Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what account his Department takes of *(a)* geographical and *(b)* individual circumstances in determining the criteria for the employment training grants it funds. [15714]

Chris Grayling: The question refers to "employment training grants" which is not a term used for any training provision offered by the Department.

The Skills Funding Agency, part of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, funds skills training throughout England delivered by colleges of further education and other training organisations. Eligibility generally depends upon the type of benefit in payment and on the length of time the benefit has been in payment. Skills and training in Scotland and Wales are the responsibility of the devolved Administrations, working in partnership with Jobcentre Plus.

The new Work Programme will radically simplify the array of existing employment programmes to deliver coherent, integrated support more capable of dealing with complex and overlapping barriers to work.

Voluntary Work: Industrial Health and Safety

Bob Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to ensure health and safety regulations do not have unintended consequences which deter individuals from participating in voluntary groups; and if he will make a statement. [17548]

Chris Grayling: The Government do not want health and safety law to be seen as a barrier to the volunteering that is so important to the Big Society. The Prime Minister asked Lord Young to review the operation of health and safety laws and the growth of the compensation culture. His report was published on Friday 15 October and includes recommendations to this end.

We are also looking forward to receiving recommendations from the taskforce being chaired by Lord Hodgson that is looking at easing burdens on the voluntary sector.

Welfare State: Reform

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what benefit schemes he plans to *(a)* end and *(b)* retain under his proposed changes to the benefits and welfare system. [16600]

Chris Grayling: Full details of the changes to the working age benefits system will be set out in the spending review on 20 October and a Welfare Reform White Paper to be published in the next few weeks.

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the implementation of his proposals to change the welfare and benefit system; and from what budgets that cost will be met. [16602]

Chris Grayling: Full details of the costs of implementing the universal credit will be set out in the spending review on 20 October and the Welfare Reform White Paper that will be published in the next few weeks.

Welfare to Work: Glasgow

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which contractors provide services under the welfare to work programme in the Glasgow city council area; and what services are provided in each case. [16734]

Chris Grayling: The following table lists the providers who are delivering welfare to work programmes in Glasgow, and the programme type. Other organisations may deliver employment services on an ad hoc basis.

Provider name	*Programme type*
A4e	New Deal for Disabled People
Capability Scotland	Work Preparation and Workstep
Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar	Workstep
Craigowl Communities	Work Preparation
Enable Services	Workstep
Erskine Hospital Workshops	Workstep
Fife Employability Team	Workstep
Glasgow City Council	Workstep
Glasgow Mentoring Network	New Deal
Glasgow North Limited	New Deal
Haven Products	Workstep
Helm Training	Workstep
Highland Blindcraft Workstep Consortium	Workstep
Management Introductions	New Deal
Momentum	Work Preparation and Workstep
Moray Council	Workstep
North Lanarkshire Council	Workstep
One Plus	One Plus: SVQ level 3 Childcare
Prospects	Work Preparation
Reed in Partnership Limited	Backing Young Britain, Jobcentre Plus Support Contracts and Employment Zones
RNIB Scotland	Work Preparation and Residential Work Preparation
Scottish Association for Mental Health	Workstep
Scottish Cultural Enterprise Limited	New Deal
Sencia	New Deal for Disabled People
Shaw Trust	New Deal for Disabled People and Workstep
South Lanarkshire Council	Workstep
Stirling Council	Workstep
The Highland Council	Workstep
The Wise Group	Employment Zones, New Deal, Workstep and In Work Support
Volunteer Development Scotland	Volunteering provision
Work Fit	Technical and Ergonomic Assessments
Working Links (Employment) Ltd	Employment Zones

Winter Fuel Payments

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate his Department has made of the average percentage of pensioners' energy bills which will be met by the winter fuel allowance in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* Islwyn constituency in 2010-11. [17603]

Steve Webb: It is estimated that the average percentage of pensioner households' energy bills likely to be met by the winter fuel payment in 2010-11 in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Wales, are as follows:

	UK		*Wales*	
	Aged up to 79	*Age 80 and over*	*Aged up to 79*	*Age 80 and over*
Winter fuel payment amounts (£)	250	400	250	400
Percentage of annual energy bill met by the winter fuel payment	26	46	24	42

(c) The information requested is not available.

Additional support is available through cold weather payments for regions that suffer particularly cold weather.

Notes:

1. The Family Spending Survey 2009 is used to determine household expenditure on fuel by age.

2. The difference in energy bills in Wales and the UK is calculated by looking at the percentage difference an average household spent on energy bills in 2008.

3. The fuel and light inflation rate, published by the ONS, is used to estimate the energy bills as at September 2010.

4. The winter fuel payment figures include the additional payments for 2010-11.

Work Capability Assessment: Per Capita Costs

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his most recent estimate is of the average cost to the public purse of the participation of one claimant in the work capability assessment process. [16733]

Chris Grayling: The information required to provide an estimate of the average cost to the public purse of the participation of one claimant in the work capability assessment process is not available.

The introduction of employment and support allowance in October 2008 was accompanied by the new work capability assessment. These assessments are delivered as part of the medical services provided by the Department for Work and Pensions' contractor, ATOS Healthcare. Jobcentre Plus, part of the Department for Work and Pensions, is responsible for referring both incapacity benefit and employment and support allowance claimants to ATOS for medical testing.

Information regarding the ATOS costs of individual work capability assessments is commercially sensitive. However, the total cost of the services provided by ATOS Healthcare to the Department for Work and Pensions for all benefit streams covered under the medical services contract amounts to approximately £100 million per annum.

For Jobcentre Plus the annual direct staff administration cost relating to all medical testing for 2009-10, the latest complete financial year, was approximately £10 million.

Jobcentre Plus systems do not currently capture volume data specific to work capability assessments; therefore it is not possible to estimate the average administration cost of one claimant in this process.

State Retirement Pensions: Uprating

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the likely change in pension payments in *(a)* cash terms in each financial year from 2011-12 to 2016-17 and *(b)* 2010-11 prices over the course of retirement for a public sector pensioner aged 60 with a public sector pension of (i) £2,500, (ii) £5,000, (iii) £10,000 and (iv) £20,000 as a result of the proposed move to the consumer prices index for the indexation of public sector pensions. [16692]

Danny Alexander: I have been asked to reply.

The Government have not estimated the effect of indexing based on the consumer prices index (CPI) instead of the retail price index (RPI) over the course of retirement for specific groups in the public service pension schemes. However, the overall estimated savings in annually managed expenditure for public service pension expenditure were made available in answers to the right hon. Member for Stirling (Mrs McGuire) on 27 July 2010, *Official Report,* column 991W.

The table shows the likely change in cash terms for each financial year from 2011-12 to 2016-17 for public service pensioners as requested. It is based on the OBR forecasts for CPI and RPI to 2016-17.

	2011-12	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*	*2015-16*	*2016-17*
RPI (%)	4.2	3.4	3.0	3.2	3.4	3.5
CPI (%)	2.8	2.6	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.0
£2,500						
RPI (£)	2,605	2,694	2,774	2,863	2,961	3,064
CPI (£)	2,570	2,673	2,745	2,830	2,920	3,020
£5,000						
RPI (£)	5,210	5,387	5,549	5,726	5,921	6,128
CPI (£)	5,140	5,345	5,489	5,660	5,841	6,039
£10,000						
RPI (£)	10,420	10,774	11,098	11,453	11,842	12,256
CPI (£)	10,280	10,691	10,979	11,319	11,682	12,079
£20,000						
RPI (£)	20,840	21,549	22,195	22,905	23,684	24,513
CPI (£)	20,560	21,382	21,958	22,639	23,363	24,158

Individual public service pension schemes are the responsibility of the relevant administering Departments and in the case of the civil service pension scheme this would be the Cabinet Office.

EDUCATION

Academies: Dartford

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many expressions of interest in academy status his Department has received from schools in the Dartford constituency. [9877]

Mr Gibb: As of 11 October 2010, the Department has received registrations from five schools in the Dartford constituency expressing an interest in converting to academy status. Of these, Dartford grammar school is the only school judged as outstanding by Ofsted. The school submitted an application to convert in June 2010 and an academy order was issued on 10 August 2010. It aims to convert on 1 December 2010.

Curriculum

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Colchester of 7 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 42W, what definition of a broad and balanced curriculum he uses. [11830]

Mr Gibb: Maintained schools are required by section 78 of the Education Act 2002 to provide a broad and balanced curriculum. Academies are required to satisfy this requirement via their funding agreement.

Departmental PFI

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will estimate the revenue cost of each project sponsored by his Department under the private finance initiative over the lifetime of the project. [1823]

Mr Gibb: The estimated revenue funding of each project with a signed private finance initiative contract sponsored by the Department is contained in tables, copies of which have been placed in the Libraries. The total funding is for the length of the concession, which is typically 25-30 years. With the exception of the grants paid to the 11 voluntary aided schools projects at the bottom of the table, grants are paid to local authorities by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

On 5 July, the Department announced that BSF projects that have reached financial close will continue, together with repeat projects which have outline business case approval prior to 1 January. All projects that have not reached close of dialogue will stop with immediate effect. On 6 August, the Department announced that all sample schools would also go ahead.

Departmental Regulation

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education which of his Department's regulations are under review; and if he will make a statement. [7156]

Mr Gibb: In order to make a real impact on reducing bureaucratic burdens on the front line we are reviewing all of the duties, regulations and statutory guidance that schools, colleges and local authorities have to follow in relation to education and children's services.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Mr Nuttall: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his most recent assessment is of the effectiveness of the education maintenance allowance in widening access to further education. [14838]

Mr Gibb: The most recent evidence of the effectiveness of the education maintenance allowance (EMA) in widening access to further education was the research report on "Barriers to Participation in Education and Training" which was published on the Department's website on 24 June 2010. The report can be found at

http://www.education.gov.uk/research

The research, which was commissioned by the previous Administration, surveyed a large number of young people. The survey included questions about EMA. A key finding was that only 12% of young people overall receiving an EMA believe that they would not have participated in the courses they are doing if they had not received an EMA.

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether students in receipt of education maintenance allowance who are commencing two-year courses in September 2010 will receive the allowance for the duration of the course. [15713]

Mr Gibb: Where eligible young people aged 16-19 in England fulfil the conditions required to receive education maintenance allowance (EMA), it will be paid in full in the 2010-11 academic year. Future spending decisions are subject to the spending review, which will conclude later this autumn.

Foreign Language

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how many foreign language A-levels were sat in *(a)* England, *(b)* Sussex, *(c)* Hove constituency and *(d)* Brighton and Hove in each year from 2002 to 2009; [13716]

(2) how many foreign language AS levels were sat in *(a)* England, *(b)* Sussex, *(c)* Hove constituency and *(d)* Brighton and Hove in each year from 2002 to 2009; [13717]

(3) how many foreign language GCSEs were sat in *(a)* England, *(b)* Sussex, *(c)* Hove constituency and *(d)* Brighton and Hove in each year from 2002 to 2009. [13718]

Mr Gibb: The information available is given in the following tables:

Number students[1] entered for foreign language A-levels from 2002-09

	England	*Sussex*	*Hove constituency*	*Brighton and Hove*
2002	28,256	1,093	111	274
2003	27,475	1,127	117	324
2004	27,052	1,023	97	256
2005	26,665	945	122	277
2006	28,010	993	99	265
2007	28,377	1,018	104	241
2008	29,423	1,052	125	262
2009	29,529	1,064	120	259

[1]. Figures represent number of entries, so if a student had entered two foreign languages, they would be represented twice.

Source:

Achievement and Attainment tables.

Number students[1] entered for foreign language AS-levels from 2002-09

	England	*Sussex*	*Hove constituency*	*Brighton and Hove*
2002	34,196	1,246	161	313
2003	32,878	1,259	128	350
2004	31,187	1,055	138	272
2005	31,557	1,027	147	290
2006	31,757	1,099	144	276
2007	32,645	1,202	150	294
2008	30,208	1,002	167	247
2009	30,130	1,004	177	292

[1] Figures represent number of entries, so if a student had entered two foreign languages, they would be represented twice.

Source:

Achievement and Attainment tables.

Number students[1] entered for foreign language GCSEs from 2002-09

	England	Sussex	Hove Constituency	Brighton and Hove
2002	461,000	17,046	1,034	2,583
2003	453,900	12,841	945	1,939
2004	437,200	12,583	897	1,973
2005	375,300	11,212	928	1,748
2006	327,000	10,047	692	1,420
2007	301,600	9,001	674	1,224
2008	288,900	10,088	763	1,565
2009	278,800	9,053	661	1,418

[1]. Figures represent number of entries, so if a student had entered two foreign languages, they would be represented twice.

Notes:

1. The GCSE figures for 2002-04 are for pupils aged 15. The figures for 2005-09 are based on pupils at the end of KS4.
2. Figures are based on entries in all school types.

Source:

Achievement and Attainment tables.

History: A-level

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how many and what proportion of pupils were entered for history A-level in *(a)* comprehensive schools, *(b)* maintained selective schools and *(c)* independent schools in each year since 1997; [15950]

(2) how many and what proportion of pupils obtained a grade C or above in history A-level in *(a)* comprehensive schools, *(b)* maintained selective schools and *(c)* independent schools in each year since 1997. [15951]

Mr Gibb: The information requested is given in the following table and covers candidates aged 16-18 entered for A-levels during the academic year:

School type and year	*Number entered for A-level history*	*Number achieving grade A-C in A-level history*	*% of all A-level candidates entered for history*	*% of all A-level candidates achieving grade A-C in history*	*% of those entered for history achieving a grade A-C*
Comprehensive					
1997	15,740	7,808	17.1	8.5	49.6
1998	15,742	7,963	16.2	8.2	50.6
1999	15,244	8,019	15.4	8.1	52.6
2000	15,241	8,269	15.4	8.3	54.3
2001	15,498	8,560	15.0	8.3	55.2
2002	16,798	10,759	15.3	9.8	64.0
2003	17,138	11,405	14.9	10.6	66.5
2004	17,957	12,192	15.4	10.4	67.9
2005	18,532	12,673	15.9	10.9	68.4
2006	19,401	13,370	16.6	11.5	68.9
2007	19,279	13,448	17.0	11.9	69.8
2008	20,042	14,587	17.1	12.5	72.8
2009	20,248	15,122	16.9	12.6	74.7
Selective					
1997	3,321	2,229	19.6	13.2	67.1
1998	3,155	2,162	17.9	12.3	68.5
1999	3,301	2,388	18.6	13.5	72.3
2000	3,173	2,268	17.7	12.6	71.5
2001	3,404	2,497	18.5	13.6	73.4
2002	3,698	3,057	20.2	16.7	82.7
2003	3,884	3,380	20.6	19.0	87.0
2004	4,076	3,584	21.1	18.5	87.9
2005	4,237	3,718	21.2	18.6	87.8
2006	4,313	3,840	21.5	19.1	89.0
2007	4,447	3,979	21.6	19.3	89.5
2008	4,541	4,119	21.4	19.4	90.7
2009	4,614	4,188	21.8	19.8	90.8
Independent					
1997	7,112	5,383	19.6	14.8	75.7
1998	6,534	5,061	17.9	13.8	77.5
1999	6,605	5,231	17.9	14.2	79.2
2000	6,454	5,185	18.2	14.6	80.3
2001	6,555	5,393	19.0	15.7	82.3
2002	6,853	6,103	20.9	18.6	89.1
2003	6,849	6,230	20.1	19.2	91.0
2004	7,167	6,541	20.6	18.8	91.3
2005	7,084	6,566	21.1	19.5	92.7
2006	7,150	6,628	21.2	19.6	92.7
2007	7,174	6,689	21.5	20.1	93.2
2008	7,377	6,909	21.3	20.0	93.7

School type and year	*Number entered for A-level history*	*Number achieving grade A-C in A-level history*	*% of all A-level candidates entered for history*	*% of all A-level candidates achieving grade A-C in history*	*% of those entered for history achieving a grade A-C*
2009	7,477	7,045	21.2	20.0	94.2

Note:
Significant numbers of history A-levels are also sat in other institution types such as secondary modern schools and FE colleges. Therefore figures in this answer will not sum to the local authority totals given in PQs 15944 and 15945 which include all maintained schools and FE colleges but exclude independent schools. Provisional figures for 2010 will be published on 21 October.

History: GCSE

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) in how many mainstream secondary schools no pupil obtained grade C or above at history GCSE in the most recent 12-month period for which figures are available; [15168]

(2) how many mainstream secondary schools did not enter a single pupil for a history GCSE in the last 12 months. [15169]

Mr Gibb: Of the 3,989 mainstream secondary schools with any pupils at the end of key stage 4, 310 such schools had no pupil reach the end of key stage 4 with a pass in GCSE history at grade A*-C.

At 269 of these schools, none of the pupils at the end of key stage 4 had been entered for GCSE history.

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of pupils obtained a grade C or above in history GCSE in each local authority in the most recent year for which figures are available. [15948]

Mr Gibb: The requested information is given in the following table.

GCSE achievement of pupils at the end of key stage 4 in history by each local authority in 2009

	Number of pupils achieving A-C in history*	*Percentage of all pupils achieving A*-C in history*
Camden	301	21
Greenwich	379	16
Hackney	249	18
Hammersmith and Fulham	336	32
Islington	190	13
Kensington and Chelsea	159	28
Lambeth	214	14
Lewisham	359	17
Southwark	375	16
Tower Hamlets	244	10
Wandsworth	312	17
City of Westminster	231	18
Barking and Dagenham	385	19
Barnet	967	30
Bexley	861	27
Brent	563	20
Bromley	980	28
Croydon	651	18
Ealing	583	21
Enfield	868	24
Haringey	406	19
Harrow	508	24
Havering	730	24
Hillingdon	467	16
Hounslow	689	27
Kingston upon Thames	430	29
Merton	247	16
Newham	359	11
Redbridge	806	25
Richmond upon Thames	476	34
Sutton	763	29
Waltham Forest	448	17
Birmingham	2,352	19
Coventry	468	13
Dudley	733	18
Sandwell	415	11
Solihull	649	21
Walsall	636	17
Wolverhampton	387	14
Knowsley	99	6
Liverpool	834	16
St Helens	311	14
Sefton	759	21
Wirral	925	23
Bolton	617	17
Bury	470	21
Manchester	515	11
Oldham	404	13
Rochdale	408	16
Salford	289	12
Stockport	512	17
Tameside	377	13
Trafford	807	28
Wigan	672	17
Barnsley	384	15
Doncaster	583	16
Rotherham	562	15
Sheffield	913	16
Bradford	780	13
Calderdale	617	23
Kirklees	839	18
Leeds	1,590	19
Wakefield	620	15
Gateshead	433	20
Newcastle upon Tyne	372	14
North Tyneside	500	22
South Tyneside	255	13
Sunderland	551	16
Isles of Scilly	5	33
Bath and North East Somerset	618	28
City of Bristol	473	15
North Somerset	499	22
South Gloucestershire	646	21

GCSE achievement of pupils at the end of key stage 4 in history by each local authority in 2009

	Number of pupils achieving A*-C in history	Percentage of all pupils achieving A*-C in history
Hartlepool	260	21
Middlesbrough	220	13
Redcar and Cleveland	391	20
Stockton on Tees	455	19
City of Kingston upon Hull	238	8
East Riding of Yorkshire	922	23
North East Lincolnshire	221	11
North Lincolnshire	271	13
North Yorkshire	1,683	24
City of York	420	25
Luton	401	17
Bedford Borough	322	17
Central Bedfordshire	568	20
Buckinghamshire	1,628	29
Milton Keynes	446	17
Derbyshire	1,774	20
Derby City	478	17
Dorset	1,019	23
Poole	393	23
Bournemouth	351	20
Durham	954	17
Darlington	227	19
East Sussex	1,031	20
Brighton and Hove	465	20
Hampshire	3,396	24
Portsmouth	304	15
Southampton	358	16
Leicestershire	754	10
Leicester City	466	13
Rutland	132	28
Staffordshire	2,026	21
Stoke on Trent	342	13
Wiltshire	1,133	22
Swindon	433	19
Bracknell Forest	328	29
Windsor and Maidenhead	387	25
West Berkshire	566	28
Reading	209	22
Slough	297	20
Wokingham	585	34
Cambridgeshire	1,640	28
Peterborough, City of	538	24
Halton	254	16
Warrington	651	25
Devon	1,458	19
Plymouth, City of	584	20
Torbay	360	24
Essex	3,191	20
Southend on Sea	544	25
Thurrock	270	14
Herefordshire	410	21
Worcestershire	1,321	21
Kent	3,357	20
Medway	536	16
Lancashire	2,572	19
Blackburn with Darwen	249	14
Blackpool	223	14
Nottinghamshire	1,746	19
Nottingham, City of	321	12
Shropshire	748	23
Telford and Wrekin	413	20
Cheshire East	1,044	26
Cheshire West and Cheshire	827	21
Cornwall	1,012	17
Cumbria	1,312	22
Gloucestershire	1,780	26
Hertfordshire	3,635	28
Isle of Wight	329	22
Lincolnshire	2,028	24
Norfolk	1,828	20
Northamptonshire	1,509	19
Northumberland	706	19
Oxfordshire	1,588	25
Somerset	1,347	24
Suffolk	1,691	22
Surrey	2,538	24
Warwickshire	1,276	21
West Sussex	1,726	21

Note:

Figures are based on pupils in maintained schools only in England.

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of pupils in mainstream maintained secondary schools were entered for history GCSE in each local authority in the most recent year for which figures are available. [15949]

Mr Gibb: The requested information is given in the following table.

GCSE attempts of pupils at the end of key stage 4 in history by each local authority in 2009

	Number of pupils who entered GCSE history	Percentage of all pupils who entered GCSE history
Camden	475	33
Greenwich	693	29
Hackney	389	29
Hammersmith and Fulham	407	39
Islington	390	28
Kensington and Chelsea	203	36
Lambeth	376	24
Lewisham	615	29
Southwark	654	28
Tower Hamlets	504	21
Wandsworth	527	28
City of Westminster	373	29
Barking and Dagenham	687	34
Barnet	1,269	39
Bexley	1,287	40
Brent	748	27
Bromley	1,336	38
Croydon	1,036	28
Ealing	863	31

GCSE attempts of pupils at the end of key stage 4 in history by each local authority in 2009

	Number of pupils who entered GCSE history	Percentage of all pupils who entered GCSE history
Enfield	1,230	34
Haringey	570	26
Harrow	709	33
Havering	1,099	36
Hillingdon	769	26
Hounslow	960	38
Kingston upon Thames	548	37
Merton	394	25
Newham	596	18
Redbridge	1,058	33
Richmond upon Thames	640	45
Sutton	934	36
Waltham Forest	735	28
Birmingham	3,623	29
Coventry	737	21
Dudley	1,226	31
Sandwell	743	21
Solihull	951	31
Walsall	1,031	28
Wolverhampton	658	24
Knowsley	260	16
Liverpool	1,407	26
St Helens	548	25
Sefton	1,102	31
Wirral	1,349	34
Bolton	990	27
Bury	730	33
Manchester	913	19
Oldham	701	23
Rochdale	671	26
Salford	542	23
Stockport	786	26
Tameside	668	22
Trafford	990	34
Wigan	1,026	26
Barnsley	842	32
Doncaster	1,005	27
Rotherham	847	23
Sheffield	1,471	26
Bradford	1,366	23
Calderdale	945	36
Kirklees	1,401	30
Leeds	2,417	29
Wakefield	1,095	27
Gateshead	632	29
Newcastle upon Tyne	595	22
North Tyneside	789	34
South Tyneside	493	26
Sunderland	906	26
Isles of Scilly	5	33
Bath and North East Somerset	791	36
City of Bristol	784	25
North Somerset	791	35
South Gloucestershire	1,092	35
Hartlepool	377	30
Middlesbrough	405	23
Redcar and Cleveland	633	33
Stockton on Tees	755	31
City of Kingston upon Hull	639	22
East Riding of Yorkshire	1,474	37
North East Lincolnshire	349	18
North Lincolnshire	504	25
North Yorkshire	2,298	33
City of York	643	38
Luton	706	29
Bedford Borough	433	23
Central Bedfordshire	955	33
Buckinghamshire	2,077	37
Milton Keynes	649	25
Derbyshire	2,608	29
Derby City	758	26
Dorset	1,465	34
Poole	570	34
Bournemouth	454	26
Durham	1,491	26
Darlington	311	26
East Sussex	1,518	29
Brighton and Hove	672	29
Hampshire	4,937	35
Portsmouth	575	29
Southampton	608	27
Leicestershire	1,291	17
Leicester City	790	23
Rutland	190	40
Staffordshire	3,247	33
Stoke on Trent	608	22
Wiltshire	1,713	34
Swindon	698	31
Bracknell Forest	517	46
Windsor and Maidenhead	541	35
West Berkshire	793	40
Reading	312	33
Slough	366	25
Wokingham	794	47
Cambridgeshire	2,252	39
Peterborough, City of	831	36
Halton	402	26
Warrington	929	36
Devon	2,241	29
Plymouth, City of	900	30
Torbay	443	29
Essex	5,092	32
Southend on Sea	729	33
Thurrock	451	24
Herefordshire	664	35
Worcestershire	1,990	32
Kent	4,737	28
Medway	890	26
Lancashire	3,986	29
Blackburn with Darwen	476	26
Blackpool	435	26
Nottinghamshire	2,904	31
Nottingham, City of	560	20
Shropshire	1,131	35

GCSE attempts of pupils at the end of key stage 4 in history by each local authority in 2009

	Number of pupils who entered GCSE history	*Percentage of all pupils who entered GCSE history*
Telford and Wrekin	608	29
Cheshire East	1,498	37
Cheshire West and Cheshire	1,251	31
Cornwall	1,668	28
Cumbria	2,081	34
Gloucestershire	2,322	34
Hertfordshire	5,070	39
Isle of Wight	599	40
Lincolnshire	2,892	34
Norfolk	2,997	34
Northamptonshire	2,517	31
Northumberland	1,136	30
Oxfordshire	2,391	38
Somerset	2,145	38
Suffolk	2,940	38
Surrey	3,606	34
Warwickshire	2,085	35
West Sussex	2,598	32

Note:

Figures are based on pupils in maintained schools only in England

History: GCSE and A-level

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of pupils *(a)* eligible and *(b)* not eligible for free school meals were entered for (i) a history GCSE and (ii) a history A-level in each of the last five years. [15172]

Mr Gibb: The information required is given in the following tables:

Number and proportion of pupils eligible for free school meals who were entered for a history A-level in the period 2005-09

	FSM		*Non-FSM*	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
2005	1,074	8.6	28,757	14.9
2006	1,133	7.5	29,843	13.4
2007	1,113	7.2	29,363	13.1
2008	1,182	7.4	30,613	13.1
2009	1,238	7.3	30,731	12.4

Source:

National Pupil Database (NPD).

The A-level figures relate to students at the end of advanced level study in maintained schools and FE colleges.

Number and proportion of pupils eligible for free school meals who were entered for a history GCSE in the period 2005-09

	FSM		*Non-FSM*	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
2005	15,353	19.2	164,772	32.8
2006	14,727	18.9	168,517	32.7
2007	14,057	18.4	165,116	31.6
2008	13,348	17.9	166,433	31.9
2009	13,480	18.1	160,770	31.9

Source:

National Pupil Database (NPD).

The GCSE figures relate to pupils at the end of key stage 4 in maintained schools only.

Primary Education: Capital Investment

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what his Department's policy is on the provision of funding for primary school capital projects; [16334]

(2) if his Department will provide equivalent funding to phase two of Aintree Davenhill primary school to that which has been committed by Sefton council; [16053]

(3) how much funding the Government have agreed to provide for primary school capital projects in 2010-11; [16054]

(4) if he will take steps to prioritise funding for the completion of school building projects which have been planned in phases and where funding is still required for the later phases. [16055]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 11 October 2010]:* All capital resources for this spending period have been allocated, and there is no scope for making additional resources available. Over the current spending period Sefton borough council and its schools have been allocated nearly £65 million of capital support, including over £9 million relating to the primary capital programme. An announcement concerning future capital support, including primary capital, will take place following the outcome of the spending review covering the period 2011-12 to 2014-15.

Pupils: Asthma

Stephen McPartland: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what mechanisms are in place to ensure that children with asthma have access to an inhaler at school; and if he will take steps to enable schools to keep shared inhalers for use in emergencies; [16095]

(2) if he will take steps to ensure that training on the requirements of children with asthma is available for all school staff. [16096]

Mr Gibb: Guidance issued by the Department, "Managing Medicines in Schools and Early Years Settings":

http://publications.education.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/Managing%20Medicines%20Nov%2007%20version.pdf

states that children with asthma need to have immediate access to their reliever inhalers and advises that spare inhalers labelled for the use of individual children may be kept at school or early years settings, in case a child's ready access inhaler is mislaid or runs out.

It is for schools and local authorities (LAs) to set their own policies on managing the medical conditions of their pupils, including the training needs of staff, taking into account local needs and resources. They should work with local health services to make sure comprehensive training is in place and delivered by appropriately qualified health professionals. This should ensure that staff are fully competent to undertake medical support duties, including supporting children with asthma.

Multiple Birth Children

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) if he will make it his policy to require schools to involve parents of multiple birth children in deciding whether they should be placed in the same class or separate classes *(a)* when starting school and *(b)* in subsequent years; and if he will make a statement; [15968]

(2) if he will bring forward proposals to implement the recommendations of the Chief Schools Adjudicator that *(a)* the schools admissions code be revised to ensure that multiple birth children are allocated places together at primary school by adding them to the list of excepted pupils in the class size regulations and *(b)* admission authorities are compelled to consult on and publish arrangements for the admission of multiple birth children; and if he will make a statement. [15969]

Mr Gibb: It is for schools to determine in which classes children from multiple births should be placed, but I would expect their parents to be consulted in each case.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State is considering the Chief Adjudicator's recommendations to the previous Secretary of State regarding the admission to the same school of twins and other children from multiple births, and will announce in due course any policy changes which may arise.

Schools: Standards

Ed Balls: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the number of schools which did not exceed the national challenge floor target of 30% of pupils gaining five GCSEs at A* to C grade including English and mathematics in 2010. [15625]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 16 September 2010]:* The number of schools where fewer than 30% of pupils achieved five GCSEs at A*-C including English and mathematics in 2010 will be published as a National Statistic as part of Statistical First Release to be published in January 2011. Individual school results will be published as Official Statistics in the school performance tables at the same time.

Teachers: Qualifications

Mr Woolas: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the status of decisions relating to a teacher's professional standing made by the General Teaching Council (GTC) will be following the abolition of the GTC. [13831]

Mr Gibb: The Government are committed to maintaining an efficient and effective regulatory system for the teaching profession. Detailed arrangements are yet to be agreed, but the GTCE's decisions relating to disciplinary action against teachers will be upheld after its abolition, subject to the normal processes of appeal. The GTCE will continue to make those decisions until the point at which it is abolished. We are now in the process of considering a range of options for handling the current suite of GTCE functions, including how the regulatory and disciplinary functions should operate once the GTCE has been abolished. We will announce further details on how these functions will operate in due course and we hope to include these within new legislation later in the year.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Capita

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many contracts his Department has had with Capita in each year since its inception; and how much it paid to Capita under such contracts in each such year. [17059]

Gregory Barker: Since DECC's inception in October 2008 the Department has held eight contracts and spent a total of £74.3 million to date with the Capita Group (CG). The majority of the spend can be attributed to the Coal Liabilities Unit (CLU) where it has held three contracts of which one has now been discontinued as of the start of this financial year. Further details of the contracts held by CLU and the other contracts held by the Department have been summarised as follows.

Since the inception of DECC in October 2008, the Coal Liabilities Unit has had three contracts with the Capita Group. Two of them are still in operation:

(i) handling and administration of coal health compensation claims, due to end in July 2011; and

(ii) administration and management of the National Concessionary Fuel Scheme (NCFS) via the National Concessionary Fuel Office (NCFO), coming to an end in March 2011 but recently extended for further two years until March 2013.

(iii) undertaking medical assessments for VWF Services claims. The contract ended in December 2009.

From October 2008 to the end of September 2010 Capita has received a total of £74.2 million in relation to these contracts, £70.6 million in relation to the coal health compensation claims and £3.2 million in relation to the National Concessionary Fuel Office contract, and £0.3 million in relation to Capita Health Solutions. See the following breakdown by financial year.

£

Financial year	*2008-09*[1]	*2009-10*	*2010-11*[2]
Coal health compensation claims contract	34,796,449	31,876,361	3,942,889
National Concessionary Fuel Office contract	1,427,673	1,239,764	618,848
Capita Health Solutions	210,128	114,485	—
Total	36,434,250	33,230,610	4,561,737

[1] From October 2008

[2] To end September 2010 only

The Department has held five other contracts with the CG outside of CLU during financial years 2008-09 to 2010-11 which have been summarised as follows:

£

Financial year	*2008-09*[1]	*2009-10*	*2010-11*[2]
Provision of a Chair for Nuclear Financing Assurance Board	5,000.00	—	—
Temporary staff to assist IT Team with the transition to FIT	—	34,745.00	1,225.00
Project support to the Energy and Climate Change Summer Strategy	—	23,008.75	—
Recruitment/Selection Costs for trainee graduates	—	5,512.81	—
Conference and Exhibition Services	—	325.00	—

Financial year	*2008-09*[1]	*2009-10*	£ *2010-11*[2]
Total	5,000.00	63,591.56	1,225.00

[1] From October 2008
[2] To end September 2010 only

The total amount spent in each financial year:

Financial year	*2008-09*[1]	*2009-10*	£ *2010-11*[2]
Total	36,439,250	33,294,201.56	4,562,962

[1] From October 2008
[2] To end September 2010 only

Circulator Pumps: Energy

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when his Department plans to determine the payback period for installing energy efficient circulator pumps in *(a)* domestic and *(b)* non-domestic properties. [16764]

Gregory Barker: The Department has no plans to determine the payback period for installing energy efficiency circulator pumps in either domestic or non-domestic properties.

Payback periods are difficult to determine precisely. They are influenced by the unit cost of the pump, the cost of installation, the actual running hours per year and the value of the fuel saved. As these variables are bespoke to each building payback periods are likely to vary considerably. The 2010 Building Services Compliance Guide recommends the use of circulators that have an A to G rating.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has made an estimate of the change in the level of carbon dioxide emissions from his Department since May 2010; and what steps he plans to take to meet his Department's target of reducing such emissions by 10 per cent. by May 2011. [16808]

Gregory Barker: The Department's carbon emissions from energy use in our two buildings (3 Whitehall Place, London and Atholl House, Aberdeen) were 10.8% lower in the period 1 May 2010 to 30 September 2010 than in the same period in 2009.

Along with other Departments, DECC has published details of the projects that we will undertake as our contribution to the pan-government target to reduce CO_2 emissions by May 2011 by 10%. This information is available at:

http://data.gov.uk/departmental-performance-co2-emissions-reduction-date

Among these projects is an investment in a new chiller for on-site IT equipment in our London headquarters, which is expected to lead to a significant reduction in electricity demand from November 2010 onwards. Alongside this capital project, departmental officials are also being engaged in the drive to reduce energy use. On 30 September, over 250 energy saving ideas were received from staff through a pledge wall. The Department will have implemented some of these ideas before the end of October.

Departmental Legislation

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many statutory duties have been placed on local authorities by legislation introduced by his Department in each year since its inception; and if he will make a statement. [17023]

Gregory Barker: The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change has placed the following duties on local authorities through legislation (primary, secondary and orders in Council) each year since 2008:

	Description	*Number of duties*
2008	Climate Change Act 2008 s 81- Duty on any local authority in Wales to have regard, in exercising its functions, to any current climate change measures report.	1
2009	Electricity and Gas (Community Energy Saving Programme) Order 2009 Art 16 (2)(a) - Indirect requirement on any local authority to confirm in writing that a generator or supplier has consulted it on a qualifying action which it intends to promote in that local authority's area.	1
2010	CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme Order 2010 Art 16(2) and 17(2) -Duty on any local authority that meets the qualification criteria to register for the emissions trading scheme in respect of greenhouse gases.	1

Departmental Manpower

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many officials his Department has appointed on a fixed-term contract since 7 May 2010. [16739]

Gregory Barker: Since 7 May 2010 the Department for Energy and Climate Change has appointed 11 officials on fixed-term contracts.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans he has to recruit staff to senior Civil Service posts in the next 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [17349]

Gregory Barker: DECC will be working through the outcome of the spending review on 20 October to determine if any recruitment to SCS posts will be required in the next 12 months.

Departmental Work Experience

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many interns his Department has engaged in the last 12 months; and how many were *(a)* unpaid, *(b)* remunerated with expenses only and *(c)* paid a salary. [17214]

Gregory Barker: In the last 12 months the Department for Energy and Climate Change has engaged 22 interns. Of those, *(a)* eight were unpaid, *(b)* four were paid expenses only and *(c)* 10 were paid above the national minimum wage.

Energy: Prices

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will bring forward legislative proposals to require energy companies to maintain the availability of a tariff during the time taken by a customer to switch companies to take up that tariff; and if he will make a statement. [17519]

Charles Hendry: Under existing rules if a customer agrees a contract for a fixed rate tariff then, subject to the terms and conditions of this tariff, they will be guaranteed the agreed price upon completion of the switching process.

If a customer agrees a contract for a variable tariff then the price of that tariff may change during the switching process, subject to the terms and conditions of that tariff. In these circumstances, consumers have the right to transfer to a different tariff or supplier without having to pay the increased charges, providing they inform their supplier within 20 working days of receiving the notification of a price change.

Fossil Fuels: Subsidies

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 5 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 36W, on energy: subsidies, what definition of fossil fuel subsidies was used by the G20 at the Summit; and if he will make a statement. [17070]

Gregory Barker: The G20 Pittsburgh summit left it to its members to determine what definition they wished to use of what constitutes a fuel subsidy for the purposes of this initiative.

Liquid Petroleum Gas

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent representations he has received on the diversity of liquid petroleum gas (LPG) supplies from domestic consumers of LPG who are parties to communal contracts for LPG supply. [17694]

Charles Hendry: The Department has received four letters since August from MPs on diversity of liquid petroleum gas (LPG) supplies from domestic consumers of LPG who are parties to communal contracts for LPG supply.

Microgeneration

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of the potential contribution of micro combined heat and power to reducing carbon dioxide emissions. [16613]

Gregory Barker: The most recent assessment of the potential contribution of micro-combined heat and power to reducing carbon dioxide emissions was made as part of the impact assessment of the operation of the Feed-in Tariff regime. Details of the impact assessment are available on the DECC website at

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/elec financial/elec_financial.aspx

The assessment noted the potential for micro-combined heat and power to deliver significant carbon savings in the form of avoided carbon emissions compared to a gas boiler and grid electricity.

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he plans to include provision for funding for micro combined heat and power units in his proposed Green Deal for Businesses scheme. [16614]

Gregory Barker: The Department strongly supports the roll out of CHP and it is intended that a range of energy saving measures, which are expected to pay for themselves over a set period of time through savings on energy bills, will qualify for green deal finance under the Green Deal for businesses. However, decisions on the specific measures and technologies which will be eligible for green deal finance have yet to be finalised.

Nuclear Power Stations: Insurance

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* officials of his Department have had with representatives of the private insurance industry on opportunities for that industry to provide comprehensive accident liability insurance cover for nuclear power plant operators. [17663]

Charles Hendry: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has not held any discussions with the private insurance industry on this matter but other DECC Ministers and DECC officials have as part of the Department's work on implementing revisions to the Paris convention on nuclear third party liability and the Brussels supplementary convention.

The conventions provide that operators of nuclear installations are to be liable to pay compensation for certain categories of third party damage caused by a nuclear incident. Operators are required to have insurance or other financial security to cover their liabilities. The revisions to the conventions increase the liabilities which nuclear operators will be responsible for and for which they will need to have insurance cover or other financial security. The Department has therefore engaged with the insurance industry on the cover it is willing to provide for the increased liabilities.

Government intend to issue a public consultation on the implementation of the revised conventions later this year. The consultation will set out our understanding of the current insurance market position and will provide an opportunity for the insurance industry to comment about what they may be able to cover.

Nuclear Power Stations: Security

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the cost to his Department was of providing security cover for commercial nuclear installations in the UK in the last 12 months for which figures are available; and whether any cost recovery is applied to nuclear operators to offset such expenditure. [17652]

Charles Hendry: Under the Nuclear Industries Security Regulations 2003, the civil nuclear industry is required to have in place a range of security measures to protect nuclear sites, materials, transports and information. The cost of these security measures and the costs of their regulation by the Office of Civil Nuclear Security are met by the civil nuclear industry in accordance with the Nuclear Industries Security (Fees) Regulations 2005 and the Energy Act 2004 (part 1, chapter 3, section 60). In addition to this, my Department has provided some capital funding to the Civil Nuclear Police Authority (CNPA) for the procurement of large items of equipment to enable the Civil Nuclear Constabulary to operate effectively. The CNPA then recovers the cost of these items from the civil nuclear industry. In 2009-10, £2.7million was provided to the CNPA by the Department.

Oil: Arctic

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with his US counterpart on drilling in the Arctic Refuge. [18237]

Charles Hendry: We have had no such discussions.

Power Failures: Kent

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent representations he has received on the power cuts at Dartford Creek cable bridge on 20 July 2009. [17686]

Charles Hendry: Since the beginning of August 2010, representations have been received from my hon. Friend the Member for Dartford (Gareth Johnson) on 2 August 2010 and 17 September 2010. A response was sent by my noble Friend Lord Marland of Odstock on 20 September 2010.

Renewables Obligation: Biofuels

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will make it his policy *(a)* to conduct an immediate review of agro-fuel Renewable Obligation Certificate banding for electricity generation and *(b)* not to guarantee the current level of Renewable Obligation Certificates for agro fuels. [17078]

Gregory Barker: My officials are currently in the process of appointing independent consultants to carry out the scheduled banding review of the renewables obligation. This will look at the support level for biomass technologies.

In June 2010 the Government published their response on grandfathering of biomass technologies:

http://decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/Consultations/RHI/245-government-response.pdf

In it the Government set out their intention to grandfather anaerobic digestion and energy from waste plants, dedicated biomass, and advanced conversion technologies (gasification and pyrolysis); and not to grandfather bioliquids and the uplift available for CHP and for the use of dedicated energy crops such as Miscanthus and willow.

Rented Housing: Energy

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will assess the merits of bringing forward proposals under section 35(2) of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1987 to require private landlords to make reasonable adjustments to improve the energy efficiency of *(a)* premises let out and *(b)* the buildings in which those premises are located. [16731]

Gregory Barker: Regulating under the Landlord and Tenant Act 1987 (which applies to residential not commercial property) would be a matter for my colleague the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (CLG). I can confirm that through the coalition Government's Green Deal we will introduce substantial new measures to enable home energy efficiency improvements to be paid for by savings from energy bills, and these measures will apply to the private rented, as well as both owner-occupied and social housing, sectors. This is a big step forward as it will remove the need for private landlords to pay upfront costs for measures that they do not directly benefit from.

Warm Front Scheme

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether grants under the Warm Front Scheme may be made in respect of all types and methods of loft insulation. [16823]

Gregory Barker: The following types of loft insulation are used under the Warm Front Scheme:

(i) Man-made mineral fibre thermal insulation mats complying with BS 5803: Part 1.

(ii) Man-made mineral fibre thermal insulation in pelleted or granular form for application by blowing complying with BS 5803: Part 2.

(iii) Cellulose fibre thermal insulation for application by blowing complying with BS 5803: Part 3.

(iv) Wool based thermal insulation batts complying with agreement certificate 02/3950

Loft insulation is fitted in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

Wind Power: Noise

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will review the implementation of recommendations made to the Government by the Hayes McKenzie Partnership in respect of wind turbine noise nuisance and aerodynamic modulation, with a view to reducing permitted noise limits. [16699]

Gregory Barker: The work being carried out by Hayes McKenzie Partnership is a review of how the current noise guidance is implemented in consideration of planning decisions, and is not concerned with the guidance itself or issues such as permitted noise limits. Hayes McKenzie are now working up their draft report which will then be independently peer reviewed. It is too early to speculate on possible next steps following its publication.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Deployment

John Glen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has made a recent assessment of the merits of rationalising the harmony regulations of the armed services. [17185]

Mr Robathan: Harmony guidelines—not regulations—were introduced to cover the length of time service personnel spend away on operational tours and the interval that they should have between tours. Each service sets its own guidelines which reflect specific single service requirements, ethos, expectation and deployment on operations.

The Secretary of State has asked the Defence Reform Unit, alongside the Chiefs of Staff to begin a review of all our current practices impacting upon our personnel. This will ensure that we are using our people, our greatest asset, to the best of their ability.

Armed Forces: Families

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what mechanisms are in place to ensure delivery of successful packages sent by families to armed forces personnel serving in Afghanistan; and if he will review delivery sites to the Irish Guards to ensure that packages reach their destination. [17899]

Mr Robathan: High priority is placed on ensuring that mail to members of the armed forces serving in Afghanistan is sent as quickly and securely as possible. All mail bags are electronically monitored to ensure they are delivered and in addition test letters are regularly sent to assess the time taken to deliver the mail.

There have been no recent problems reported concerning the delivery of mail to British troops in Afghanistan, including to the Irish Guards. As such, while we will continue to monitor performance, there are no plans to change the current arrangements.

Armed Forces: Food

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of food supplied to the armed forces was domestically produced in the latest period for which figures are available. [16857]

Peter Luff: The Pay As You Dine (PAYD) programme is currently being introduced across non-operational bases and barracks in the UK, and covers more than 65% of service personnel, who pay for the food themselves. Contractors are required to seek best value for money in the open market, consistent with meeting EU quality standards, and wherever competitive, give full consideration to procuring British products. The last year for which we have data is 2008-09 and relates to a sample basket of fresh and frozen ingredients as specified by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. 49% of this basket was domestically produced.

Personnel not being fed under the PAYD programme are covered by the single food supply contract placed by the Defence Food Services Team, part of the Defence Equipment and Support Organisation. This covers personnel serving on operations and overseas exercises, as well as those at UK bases not yet covered by PAYD. The proportion of domestically produced food procured under the single food supply contract in 2008-09 was 62%.

Armed Forces: Pay

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what criteria his Department uses to determine whether armed forces personnel are placed in the higher or lower pay ranges; and what mechanism his Department has put in place to ensure that anomalies across the pay structure are identified and corrected. [17337]

Mr Robathan: Only other ranks in the armed forces are paid according to the allocation of their rank and trade to either the higher or lower pay range as determined by a process of job evaluation. The job evaluation system has six factors against which each job subject to evaluation is measured. These are:

Knowledge, skills and experience needed for the post, and how widely they must be applied.

Complexity and mental challenge of the job.

Judgment and decision-making, and their impact on the success of the organisation.

Use of resources (personnel, equipment, budgets etc.); level of supervision and the jobholder's influence in the organisation.

Communication—the level of internal and external communications and their significance.

Working conditions—health and safety aspects, bodily constraints and physical environment of the job in question.

The addition of each of the six factor scores produces a numerical score for the job. Scores from a sample of statistically representative jobs are combined to produce a weighted average score for the trade and rank. This score largely determines whether a trade/rank is to be paid in the high or low pay range. However, each rank has a pay boundary threshold and, if the score falls within 5% of it, the service concerned may exercise management discretion to allow the rank group concerned to be moved up or down across the pay boundary.

Checks and balances within the job evaluation process are:

Jobs are scored by independent single service job evaluation judges;

Job scores (and therefore trade/rank scores) are consensus scores;

Engagement of branch managers/trade sponsors throughout the process;

Evaluations of similar trades from two or three services undertaken in the same year and results not published until all is complete; and "Feel-fair" exercises conducted by the judging panel on conclusion of each judging session.

A number of mechanisms exist that provide a wider perspective on the overall pay structure, including centrally sponsored research and analysis, an extensive evidence gathering process in support of the Armed Forces Pay Review Body annual pay round, and routine communication through the chain of command.

Armed Forces: Post-traumatic Stress Disorder

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what funding his Department has provided to Combat Stress to help former members of the armed forces who are suffering from post-traumatic stress disorders in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [17638]

Mr Robathan: Although the Ministry of Defence works closely with the Department of Health, the NHS is responsible for treating former members of the armed forces. The Ministry of Defence (MOD) uses discretionary powers under the War Pensions Scheme to meet treatment costs arising wholly or mainly as a result of disablement due to service before 6 April 2005, where such costs are not provided for under other UK legislation.

In 2009-10 the MOD provided £3 million to Combat Stress for residential treatment of war pensioners with mental health conditions, including post-traumatic stress disorder, caused by service and £49,000 for travel expenses incurred by war pensioners receiving such treatment. Combat Stress also receives separate funding from NHS Scotland for war pensioners resident in Scotland treated at Combat Stress's centre in Ayr.

In June the Prime Minister confirmed an additional £2 million funding to the Department of Health into veterans' mental health services, including provision for 15 veterans' mental health nurses to be embedded into NHS mental health trusts.

Following a recent study of health services for the armed forces community by my hon. Friend the Member for South West Wiltshire (Dr Murrison), we will work with Combat Stress, the Department of Health and others to ensure delivery of recommendations he has made to improve support for serving and former members of the armed forces.

Armed Forces: Recruitment

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make an assessment of the implications for his Department's policy on recruitment to the armed forces of his Department's spending reductions. [16908]

Mr Robathan: At the heart of the Strategic Defence and Security Review has been a thorough examination of our force structure, looking at the overall shape, size and role of the armed forces and Ministry of Defence Civil Service, as well as the reserve forces, including the implications for recruitment.

Astute Class Submarines

John Woodcock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his most recent estimate is of the cost of the Astute-class submarine *(a)* II, *(b)* III, *(c)* IV, *(d)* V and *(e)* VI; and whether each estimate has been revised since his appointment. [17779]

Peter Luff: The most recent published estimate of the cost of the Astute Class Submarine programme is recorded in the National Audit Office's Major Project Report (MPR) 2010 (HC 489-I, 2010-2011, dated 15 October 2010). The report forecasts procurement costs for Boats 1 to 3 (Batch 1) as £4,041 million, and the costs for Boat 4 as £1,567 million.

The current approved level of spend on Astute Boat 5 is £735 million and for Boat 6 is £334 million; however, these do not reflect the total costs of these boats as they undergo incremental approval. The Boat 5 approval includes the nuclear reactor, other long lead items and the initial build work. The Boat 6 approval includes the nuclear reactor core and long lead items.

These published figures reflect the position as of 31 March 2010 and have not been revised since my right hon. Friend, the Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox) was appointed.

John Woodcock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the production drum beat level is for the Astute-class submarines; and whether that has changed since his appointment. [17780]

Peter Luff: The re-baselining of the Astute Submarine programme is ongoing and the production 'drum beat' can only be confirmed once detailed joint planned and cost analysis work has been completed. This work will then need to take account of any changes recommended to the Ministry of Defence's equipment programme as a result of the Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR), which will, in due course, be subject to the Department's and HM Treasury's formal investment approvals process.

The SDSR has examined all aspects of the defence programme, including the Astute Submarine programme. The outcome will be announced tomorrow.

Defence Equipment: Exports

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost to his Department was of the Export Support Team in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10; and whether these costs have been reimbursed by the UK Trade and Investment Defence and Security Organisation. [17646]

Mr Gerald Howarth: All military staff within the Export Support Team (EST) continue to have their salaries, allowances, travel and subsistence claims paid by the Ministry of Defence (MOD). Annual costs relating to salaries are £1,393,679.97 for financial year 2008-09 and £1,450,570.35 for financial year 2009-10.

The annual running cost of export related activities of the EST is £82,120.55 for financial year 2008-09 and £99,109.72 for financial year 2009-10.

All costs, including associated salaries, are recovered by the MOD from UK Trade and Investment Defence Security Organisation under the service level agreement. As a result, there is no cost to MOD.

Defence: Procurement

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment his Department has made of the likelihood of claims arising from any termination of defence contracts. [17087]

Peter Luff: Contracts let by the Ministry of Defence have an appropriate 'break' clause as part of their standard terms and conditions. Many factors are taken into account before consideration is given to invoking this clause, including the likelihood of any claims being made. Each case is dealt with on its individual merits.

Departmental Manpower

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many officials his Department has appointed on a fixed-term contract since 7 May 2010. [16787]

Mr Robathan: Since 7 May 2010 the Ministry of Defence has appointed 143 members of staff on fixed-term contracts. In all instances fixed term appointments are used to reflect the finite nature of the requirement and include casual appointments as well as longer fixed terms.

Almost half of the appointments are technical apprentices who are employed on limited term apprenticeship contracts while they undertake their training. Apprenticeship contracts are exempt from the civil service external recruitment freeze. The recruitment of apprentices is part of our continuing commitment to providing the engineering skills needed in the MOD. The 2010 intake increases our numbers undertaking training to around 200.

26 appointments are teachers employed on short-term contracts in schools educating the children of servicemen and women in Germany and Cyprus. These contracts all began at the start of the academic year.

Other appointments are in direct support of ongoing operations in Afghanistan and include medical staff employed in the operational theatre and drivers appointed on a short term basis in the UK to provide cover for service personnel deployed on current operations.

In addition, following an open competition launched in November 2009, the Department made an appointment to a senior civil service, deputy director position within a trading fund agency.

Harrier Aircraft

John Glen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will assess the effect on the capability of any new aircraft carrier of a reduction in Harrier capability. [17944]

Peter Luff: The Strategic Defence and Security Review is due to be announced to the House on 19 October 2010. Following its publication, I will write to the hon. Member.

Iraq: Military Decorations

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Iraq Medals his Department has awarded since that medal's inception. [17934]

Mr Robathan: The total number of Iraq medals awarded since the inception of the medal is 127,154. Of these, 36,641 were Iraq Medals with Clasp.

Military Aircraft: Repairs and Maintenance

John Glen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate his Department has made of the cost to the public purse of refurbishment and maintenance of existing *(a)* Harrier and *(b)* Tornado capability in the next 10 years. [17459]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 14 October 2010]:* Anticipating the planned retirement from RAF service of the Tornado F3 in March 2011, the estimated logistic support costs of the Tornado GR4 aircraft over the next 10 years is £3.1 billion starting from April 2011. The estimated logistic support costs of the Harrier aircraft from the same date through to its planned out of service date of March 2018 is £0.7 billion. In addition, there are other support costs for all RAF aircraft which are not specifically attributable to either the Harrier or Tornado aircraft.

All in service equipments are being considered as part of the Strategic Defence and Security Review, due to be published tomorrow.

Military Decorations

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will review the case for a National Defence Medal; and if he will make a statement. [17451]

Mr Robathan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Colchester (Bob Russell) on 15 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 351W.

NATO

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of proposals for a new strategic concept for NATO prepared by the experts groups and distributed in May 2010. [17648]

Mr Gerald Howarth: The UK welcomed the report of Madeleine Albright and the Group of Experts. It rightly emphasises the alliance's enduring core purpose in providing collective defence; the importance of responding to threats emanating beyond its borders; of succeeding in Afghanistan; adapting to new and emerging security challenges, including cyber attack; continuing its process of reform and transformation; developing productive relationships with a range of partners, including the EU and Russia; and being able to play its part with others in a comprehensive approach to responding to crises. The group's thorough and inclusive work is an important contribution to the development of NATO's new Strategic Concept, which is due to be endorsed at the Lisbon summit next month.

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of each paper circulated by NATO member states in preparation for the meeting of NATO defence and foreign affairs ministers in Lisbon from 19 to 21 November 2010. [17650]

Mr Gerald Howarth: The summit meeting in Lisbon on 19 to 20 November 2010 is of NATO's Heads of State and Government. Unless made publicly available by the nation itself, national papers circulated within the Alliance in preparation for the summit are done so in confidence. It would therefore be inappropriate to place such papers in the Library of the House.

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what representations he has received from the European Leadership Network on proposals by the experts group for reform of NATO strategy. [17651]

Mr Gerald Howarth: None.

NATO: Nuclear Weapons

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on the retention by NATO of *(a)* US tactical nuclear weapons and *(b)* stored B61 gravity nuclear bombs at air bases leased by the US administration from NATO member states in Europe. [17649]

Mr Gerald Howarth: NATO's nuclear policy and posture is a matter for the Alliance as a whole to determine. The UK will play a full part in any discussions on the issue.

Navy

Anne Marie Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department pays conservancy costs in respect of seaports used by the Royal Navy. [17327]

Nick Harvey: Yes, when levied by the commercial seaport, Royal Navy ships will pay a conservancy charge. The requirements for dredging and navigation aids in dockyard port waters are driven by the needs of defence and therefore these costs are met by the Ministry of Defence.

Prisoners of War: Compensation

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has made a recent assessment of the merits of making amendments to the Far East Prisoner of War and Civilian Internees ex-gratia compensation scheme to include those civilian internees who lacked formal Japanese records of status. [16907]

Mr Robathan: No. To qualify for a payment under the Scheme, it is necessary to confirm that the claimant (or their deceased spouse) had been interned by the Japanese. We appreciate that the time elapsed since the end of the Second World War may not make this easy and we will consider various types of supporting proof but it needs to be contemporary.

We have been, and will continue to be, flexible in the type of evidence that we accept as confirmation of an individual having been detained in a camp, or a specifically designated area, under the direct control of the Japanese.

Although other aspects of the eligibility criteria of the Scheme have been subject to review and amendment since its inception, I do not consider that there is any need to review the need for proof of internment. There remains a requirement for evidence to corroborate any claim before consideration can be given to the disbursement of public funds.

Rendition

Mr Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the statement of 6 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 175-178, on the treatment of detainees, and the Prime Minister's letter to the right hon. Sir Peter Gibson of the same date, what separate arrangements his Department has made to address allegations relating to military detention operations in Iraq and Afghanistan after 2003; and if he will make a statement. [17945]

Dr Fox: The separate arrangements made by the Ministry of Defence to address the allegations comprise several elements which look both at the historical issues arising from operations in Iraq, where we no longer conduct detention operations, and the current arrangements in those theatres of operations where UK forces are still deployed. Legislative provisions to ensure that we can deal robustly and transparently with allegations are contained in the Armed Forces Act 2006.

In respect of allegations against British Forces in Iraq, we have established a dedicated Iraq Historic Allegations Team (IHAT) to enhance our capacity to review and investigate all such claims. Following the conclusion of an investigation into any particular allegation, the IHAT will report their findings to the Provost Marshal (Army) and, where justified, disciplinary action will be taken against those who may have behaved inappropriately. Separately, and with the full co-operation of the Ministry of Defence, the Baha Mousa Inquiry has been looking into the circumstances relating to the tragic death of Baha Mousa in 2003.

In respect of current operations, in March this year the MOD's Strategic Detention Policy was published. This document informs subordinate doctrine, instructions and procedures relating to detention. In addition, early this year the Chief of the General Staff directed the Army Inspector to undertake a review into the implementation of policy, training and conduct of detainee handling. This review has looked at detention handling in the round, drawing on recent experiences and current practices, and has resulted in a number of recommendations which will be taken forward under new governance mechanisms. The key findings were set out in a statement to the House by the Minister for the Armed Forces on 14 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 35WS.

Syria: Cruise Missiles

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the implications for his Department's policies of the Russian Government's decision to supply Syria with P-800 Yakhont cruise missiles. [16621]

Nick Harvey: The deal is not a contravention of any embargo or sanction. Nevertheless, we would expect Russia, as with other exporting nations, to have considered carefully the potential end-use of such weapons.

USA: Military Alliances

Mr Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether he expects the proposed US-UK Defence Trade Co-operation Treaty to enable his Department to purchase more defence equipment off the shelf; [16882]

(2) what progress has been made on the agreement of a US-UK defence trade co-operation treaty; and if he will make a statement. [16883]

Nick Harvey: The US-UK Defence Trade Co-operation treaty achieved a major milestone when it was agreed by the US Congress on 29 September 2010 allowing preparations for implementation to begin. The treaty will help improve interoperability and the support provided to our armed forces. It is a symbol of the close defence relationship between our countries. We envisage that the detailed preparations required to bring the treaty arrangements into force will take up to twelve months and will be conducted in close consultation with the US Administration and with UK and US industries. By simplifying export licensing arrangements for Government end use, the treaty will facilitate the more rapid movement of equipment and information between the UK and the US whether purchased off-the-shelf, as part of bilateral project or in support of joint operations.

Weapons: Testing

Mr Tom Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what insurance arrangements are required in respect of civilian target shooters using shooting ranges for which his Department is responsible. [16843]

Mr Robathan: Civilians using Ministry of Defence ranges must be covered by a commercial public liability insurance policy with a Limit of Liability of not less than £5 million per incident. This must be unlimited as to the total number of incidents it covers before any access to the Department's shooting ranges is permitted.

This indemnifies MOD against potential claims from third parties for personal injury or death arising from members of the general public using its ranges.

Wrecks: War Graves

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to add further shipwreck sites to the Maritime War Graves list; and if he will make a statement. [17710]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence extends protection to vessels, in military service when lost, by designating them under the terms of the Protection of Military Remains Act 1986. To date, the remains of 67 ships have been designated in both UK and international waters. Further designations will be made as part of a continuing programme.

The Protection of Military Remains Act contains no power to permit a wrecked vessel to be designated as a "war grave" and no other legal mechanism exists for this purpose.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Belarus: Religious Freedom

Mr Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of steps taken by the Belarus government in relation to the New Life Church; whether he has made recent representations to the government of Belarus on religious freedom; and if he will make a statement. [17345]

Mr Lidington: The Government continue to have serious concerns about freedom of religion in Belarus. While the Catholic and Orthodox churches are able to operate unhindered, Protestant churches face a particularly difficult environment. Our embassy in Minsk works closely with EU partners to raise our concerns about these issues with the Belarusian authorities. We maintain regular contact with civil society organisations devoted to human and civil rights, including freedom of religion. We also observe their public demonstrations and court cases. Our embassy meets representatives of the New Life Church regularly and will continue to follow this case.

Burma: Christianity

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment his Department has made of the situation of Christian communities in Burma. [17595]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Government condemn all instances where individuals face persecution or discrimination because of their faith or belief. In Burma, we are particularly concerned at the treatment of Christian and Muslim minorities who are disproportionately affected by the wider pattern of human rights abuses. Our ambassador in Rangoon regularly raises human rights concerns directly with the regime and we will continue to highlight the situation in the UN's human rights bodies, pursuing strongly worded resolutions in the General Assembly and at the Human Rights Council.

Burma: Foreign Relations

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what aims and objectives his Department has set for its policy on Burma. [17596]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Government wish to see a peaceful, democratic and prosperous Burma, where human rights are fully respected. Our immediate objectives are the release of more than 2,100 political prisoners, including Aung San Suu Kyi and the start of a genuine process of national reconciliation involving the military regime, the democratic opposition and all ethnic groups.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made an estimate of the change in the level of carbon dioxide emissions from his Department since May 2010; and what steps he plans to take to meet his Department's target of reducing such emissions by 10 per cent. by May 2011. [16810]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office have made an estimate of the change in the level of carbon dioxide emissions since May 2010 compared to the same period last year. Energy consumption data for our main building is published online

http://data.gov.uk/dataset/fco-energy-consumption

We have a number of projects planned to deliver carbon reductions within the Foreign and Commonwealth Office by at least 10%. Details on these plans are also available online

http://data.gov.uk/departmental-performance-co2-emissions-reduction-date

Departmental Public Expenditure

Chris Bryant: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) how much was allocated by each Government department to the Discretionary Peacekeeping Fund in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009. [16127]

(2) how much money was allocated by each Government department to the Conflict Prevention Pool in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009; [16128]

(3) how much funding was allocated to the BBC World Service in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009; [16205]

(4) how much money each Department allocated to the British Council in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009; [16207]

(5) how much money each Department allocated to the Security and Intelligence Fund in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009; [16208]

(6) how much money each Department allocated to the Special Reserve in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009; [16209]

(7) how much money each Department allocated to the Stabilisation Aid Fund in 2008. [16210]

Alistair Burt: I refer the hon. Member to my response of 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 386-87W, to the right hon. Member for Paisley and Renfrewshire South (Mr Alexander).

Departmental Recruitment

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what criteria his Department uses to determine whether to employ a former member of staff who has previously taken early retirement or received a severance package from his Department. [17312]

Alistair Burt: The current rules of the Civil Service Compensation Scheme (CSCS) allow for staff to return to employment with the civil service subject to certain requirements.

When the Foreign and Commonwealth Office is considering employing a former member of staff who has either taken early retirement or received a severance package, strict criteria are used based on the organisation's workforce planning needs, whether the former member of staff has skills or expertise that the office lacks and which are business critical, and is value for money.

If former members of staff do return to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office after taking an early retirement package, there is a strictly enforced set of rules covering repayment of compensation and abatement of earnings.

Ilois: Resettlement

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 16 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 1186W, on the Ilois: resettlement, on what defence security grounds he has determined his policy against resettlement of the Ilois; and what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Defence on Government policy on the settlement of civilian populations in the vicinity of defence installations. [17692]

Mr Bellingham: Full immigration control over the entire of the British Indian Ocean Territory is necessary to ensure and maintain the availability and effective use of the territory for defence purposes of both the UK and the US with whom the UK has treaty obligations. US authorities have always made clear their concerns about the possible restoration of a settled civilian population in the territory which, they have said "would severely compromise Diego Garcia's unparalleled security and have a deleterious impact on our military operations." In October 2010, the US reconfirmed that they remained concerned about the implications of any resettlement of the outer islands.

My officials keep in close contact with their Ministry of Defence counterparts over British Indian Ocean Territory issues.

Indonesia: Religious Freedom

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the treatment of Christians in Bekasi and other areas of West Java; and whether he has had recent discussions with the Indonesian government on religious freedom for minorities in Indonesia. [17318]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We are aware of recent reports of threats and attacks on religious minorities in Indonesia.

We regularly raise freedom of religion with the Government of Indonesia. In a meeting with the Indonesian Foreign Minister at the Asia-Europe meeting in Brussels on 4 October, my right hon. Friend the Deputy Prime Minister stressed the need for Indonesia to address concerns about religious freedom in the light of attacks on Christians and the Ahmadiyya community.

With strong support from the UK, freedom of religion was included as a substantive item on the agenda of the first EU-Indonesia Human Rights Dialogue on 29 June.

Israel: Military Aid

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on the *(a)* export of components for F-16 aircraft and Apache helicopters (i) to Israel and (ii) to the US for incorporation in military equipment to be supplied to Israel and *(b)* other military exports to Israel. [17431]

Alistair Burt: All export licence applications for the export of military equipment to Israel are assessed on a case by case basis against the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria. Further details about UK military exports to Israel and all other destinations are available in the UK Strategic Export Controls Annual Report.

Israel: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

James Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the progress of Israel's application to join the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. [16678]

Alistair Burt: We can confirm Israel joined the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development in May 2010.

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer to the then Member for Milton Keynes South West of 18 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 973W, on the Organisation for European Economic Co-operation and Development: Israel, what further progress has been made in resolving the outstanding, issues relating to the scope of statistical data provided by the Israeli authorities to the Organisation for European Economic Co-operation and Development. [16720]

Alistair Burt: Israeli accession to the Organisation for European Economic Co-operation (OECD) does not demonstrate an acceptance of illegal settlements or stand in the way of Palestinian statehood. Israel put forward statistics which include areas which are deemed by the UK and the wider international community to be occupied territory. However, the OECD Secretariat have included the following footnote regarding Israeli data in all pre- and post-accession reports that use Israeli data. The UK worked to agree this with EU and OECD partners in order to ensure clarity on the status of the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

> "This report/review/document is not intended to cover the territories known as the Golan Heights, the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, and East Jerusalem. However, for technical reasons, it uses Israel's official statistics, which include data relating to the Golan Heights, East Jerusalem, and Israeli settlements in the West Bank. It is without prejudice to positions regarding those territories, which most members of the international community regard as occupied territory under the terms of international law."

Palestinians: International Assistance

James Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the economic situation in the Gaza Strip. [16679]

Mr Duncan: I have been asked to reply.

There are several recent reports on the economic situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTs), but none specifically on Gaza. These include reports produced by the World Bank, IMF and Palestinian Authority for the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee meeting of the donor support group to the Palestinian Authority, held in September.

The World Bank report 'The Underpinnings of the Future Palestinian State: Sustainable Growth and Institutions' is available at:

www.worldbank.org

on the west bank and Gaza page.

The IMF report 'Macroeconomic and Fiscal Framework for the West Bank and Gaza: Sixth Review of Progress' is available at:

www.imf.org

on the west bank and Gaza page.

The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics also produces regular reports on various aspects of the economy in the OPTs, such as employment figures and activity of various sectors, which are available on their website at:

www.pcbs.gov.ps

Poland: Political Parties

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the activities of the Law and Justice Party in Poland; and if he will make a statement. [16592]

Mr Lidington: I receive regular reporting from our embassy in Poland covering the political and economic situation in Poland, including on the policies and performance of all leading political parties in Poland. This includes the Law and Justice Party who form the main opposition.

UN Security Council

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has received on the membership of the UN Security Council. [17895]

Mr Bellingham: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has discussed reform of the United Nations Security Council with several of his counterparts. Both he and I have spoken about this with a number of interlocutors including during the United Nations Ministerial Week in September.

The UK's support for reform of the Security Council is clear. In his speech on 1 July, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary said that

> "this Government will be at the forefront of those arguing for the expansion of the United Nations Security Council."

The UK wants a Security Council that is more representative of the modern world

while no less effective in taking decisions to maintain international peace and security.

UN Women

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his UN counterparts on the appointment of Michelle Bachelet as the Executive Director of UN Women. [17390]

Mr Bellingham: This appointment, like other Under Secretary-General positions within the UN Secretariat, is at the discretion of the Secretary-General. In line with standard procedures for UN senior appointments, the Secretary-General called for nominations from member states highlighting the skills required for the position and then interviewed a short-list before making his selection.

We welcome the Secretary-General's choice of Michelle Bachelet as the head of UN Women. As a former Head of State, she brings with her experience at the highest political level coupled with an impressive track record of work on women's rights. I look forward to working with Ms Bachelet as she takes forward UN Women's work in promoting equality and women's empowerment in developing and developed countries alike.

INDEPENDENT PARLIAMENTARY STANDARDS AUTHORITY COMMITTEE

Apex Communications

Bob Russell: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, how much was paid to Apex Communications for services provided to the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA) since its inception; how many hours work were carried out by Apex Communications; what the *(a)* commencement and *(b)* concluding date was of the contract with Apex Communications; and what mechanism was used to select Apex Communications to provide communications services for IPSA. [15723]

Mr Charles Walker: Apex Communications was paid £69,375 for work conducted between October 2009 and July 2010. Apex worked an average of 100 hours a month providing services to IPSA. In September 2009, IPSA's implementation team held a competition after identifying, researching and approaching three corporate communication agencies with an invitation to tender for a contract to provide communications support to IPSA. Following this competition, the contract was awarded to Apex Communications.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Bank of England

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister on how many occasions he has met the governor of the Bank of England since May 2010; and what the duration was of each such meeting. [16424]

The Deputy Prime Minister: The Government are committed to publishing details of Ministers' meetings with external organisations and individuals on a quarterly basis. Information for the period 12 May to 31 July 2010 is currently being collated and will be published shortly.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Tom Harris: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the *(a)* number and *(b)* seniority of civil servants in his office. [16302]

The Deputy Prime Minister: As with support to all Ministers, staffing arrangements in my office are kept under continual review in order to reflect Government priorities.

General Election 2010: Fraud

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether he received reports of people registered to vote in more than one constituency who voted more than once in the last general election. [16668]

Mr Harper: Information about whether individuals have registered in more than one constituency is not collected centrally. It has been a longstanding feature of the electoral register that some people are legitimately registered in two places; however, it is an offence, subject to a fine of up to £5,000, to vote more than once at an election for the same body. A person may not therefore vote twice in a UK General election or European Parliamentary election, but may do so in different local elections where they are validly registered.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Affordable Housing

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many affordable homes he expects to be built by the public sector in the next 12 months. [17305]

Andrew Stunell: We recognise that many people are struggling to afford a suitable home. We are reviewing the options for providing affordable housing in the context of the spending review.

Aggregates

Mr Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions he has had with local authorities on the steps to be taken should such authorities not nominate sand and gravel extraction sites sufficient to meet targets set by his Department. [17705]

Robert Neill: None. However, when we revoked regional strategies on 6 July we made it clear that minerals planning authorities will have responsibility for continuing to plan for a steady and adequate supply of aggregate minerals to support economic growth. They should do this within the longstanding arrangements for minerals planning. Technical advice provided by the aggregate working parties, including their current work in sub-apportioning this Department's guidelines for 2005-20 to mineral planning authority level will assist with this. Planning authorities can choose to use alternative figures for their planning purposes if they have new or different information and a robust evidence base.

Mr Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department has issued to local authorities on *(a)* the factors to take into account in determining their mineral extraction plans and *(b)* the safe operational margins required between sand and gravel diggings and (i) domestic properties, (ii) schools and (iii) areas of outstanding natural beauty. [17706]

Robert Neill: The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 makes it clear that a local authority must have regard to national policy when preparing development plan documents. For mineral extraction plans this will include Planning Policy Statement 12 and the Minerals Policy Statements, Minerals Policy Guidance notes and accompanying guidance as appropriate.

There is no national planning policy for safe operational margins in England. Councils are responsible for deciding the appropriate distance between the boundary of mineral sites and the nearest community. However, Minerals Policy Statement 2 states that in some circumstances mineral planning authorities should consider the need to require separation distances for new or extended permissions for mineral extraction close to residential property to ensure adequate protection to nearby residents.

Minerals Policy Statement 1 states that new major mineral developments should not be permitted in areas of outstanding natural beauty, except in exceptional circumstances. Because of the serious impact that major mineral developments may have, applications for these developments should be subject to the most rigorous examination and must meet additional tests. There are however, a number of mineral sites in existence with long standing planning permissions that were granted before Minerals Policy Statement 1 was in place.

Allotments

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what area of land in each local authority area had been allocated for allotment use on the latest date for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [16727]

Andrew Stunell: Information on the amount of land each local authority allocates for allotment use is not held centrally. Local authorities are not required to provide central Government with comprehensive data on green space as this would be burdensome.

Anti-Semitism

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he has taken to reduce the incidence of anti-Semitism since his appointment; what such steps he plans to take in the next 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [17335]

Andrew Stunell: The Department of Communities and Local Government chairs the cross-Government working group to tackle anti-Semitism and plans to publish a three-year progress report on the implementation of the recommendations of the All Party Inquiry into anti-Semitism in December 2010. The cross-Government working group will continue to meet over the next 12 months to tackle anti-Semitism and any other issues of concern to the Jewish community.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the Jewish community on reducing the incidence of anti-Semitism; and if he will make a statement. [17368]

Andrew Stunell: I met representatives of the Community Security Trust in September 2010 where the issue of reducing the incidence of anti-Semitism was discussed. I also attended the All Party Parliamentary Group on Anti-Semitism breakfast in May 2010 where issues concerning the Jewish community were discussed.

Audit Commission

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the financial effect on the Audit Commission pension fund of his decision to close the Audit Commission. [16652]

Robert Neill: The effect of disbanding the Audit Commission on its pension fund will depend on the options adopted for making these changes, including the option chosen for moving the commission's in-house audit practice into the private sector. Working with the commission and other partners, we are currently considering a range of options.

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he consulted trade unions *(a)* before and *(b)* after his decision to close the Audit Commission. [16653]

Robert Neill: When we announced, on 13 August, our plans to disband the Audit Commission, we made clear that we would be working with the commission and other partners to develop the detailed options for making this change. We are currently doing this and, on 10 November, I am meeting Prospect, the trade union representing the majority of Audit Commission employees.

Mr Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what date he was informed of the pension and redundancy liabilities arising from the closure of the Audit Commission. [17553]

Robert Neill: Before my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government announced his plans to disband the Audit Commission, he was aware that pension and redundancy liabilities could arise and that their extent would depend on the options adopted for making these changes, including the option chosen for moving the Commission's in-house audit practice into the private sector. Working with the Commission and other partners, we are now considering a range of options.

Audit Commission: Plants

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the Audit Commission *(a)* entered into and *(b)* renewed contracts for pot plant (i) maintenance and (ii) leasing in (A) 2008-09 and (B) 2009-10. [17699]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to my hon. Friend direct.

Letter from Andy McKeon, dated 18 October 2010:

Your Parliamentary Question outlined above has been passed to me to reply on behalf of the Chief Executive who is currently on annual leave.

The Audit Commission entered into a three year contract with Flora-Tec for the lease and maintenance of internal plants on 1 January 2006, with an option to extend for a further period.

The contract was extended by a further year on 1 January 2009 and again on 1 January 2010.

The contract was terminated in September 2010.

A copy of this letter will appear in Hansard.

Audit Commission: Publications

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance he has provided to the Director of Communications of the Audit Commission on publishing analyses of Government policy. [17697]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to respond to my hon. Friend direct.

Letter from Andy McKeon, dated 18 October 2010:

Your Parliamentary Question outlined above has been passed to me to reply on behalf of the Chief Executive who is currently on annual leave.

The Audit Commission no longer employs anyone in the role of Director of Communications or equivalent.

Employees of the Audit Commission are required at all times, under the terms of their employment, to act in a way that ensures the Commission's integrity, impartiality and independence is maintained.

A copy of this letter will appear in Hansard.

Construction: Architecture

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department issues to developers on requirements to construct buildings that are appropriate to the architectural heritage of a local area; and whether he has plans to bring forward proposals to amend building regulations relating to such requirements. [17154]

Robert Neill: Planning Policy Statement 5 (Planning for the Historic Environment) includes policy principles about the need for new development to take account of the local historic environment. It is supported by a PPS Practice Guide prepared by English Heritage. Detailed guidance on design and the historic environment is available from English Heritage and the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE).

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has made an estimate of the change in the level of carbon dioxide emissions from his Department since May 2010; and what steps he plans to take to meet his Department's target of reducing such emissions by 10% by May 2011. [16804]

Robert Neill: The Department estimated a target emissions rate of 6,848[1] tonnes of carbon dioxide between 1 May and 31 August 2010 in order to meet the Prime Minister's target to reduce emissions from offices by 10% by May 2011. The actual reported emissions were 6,452 tonnes. September data is currently being collated.

The Department has already undertaken a range of actions to help meet the 10% emissions reduction target, including estate rationalisation, installing high efficiency lighting, and reducing operating hours of major plant and equipment. Further planned activity includes fitting boiler optimiser controls and voltage reduction equipment, reducing heating and cooling set points and installing additional automated meter reading devices across the estate.

I also refer my hon. Friend to the cost saving measures highlighted in my Department's press release of 30 September 2010.

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[1] The figures cover CLG Group emissions as the Prime Minister's 10% target applies to CLG Centre, the Government Office network, executive agencies and executive non-departmental bodies.

Departmental Contracts

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what contracts his Department has awarded to voluntary sector organisations in the last two years; and what the monetary value was of each such contract. [17609]

Robert Neill: The information requested is not held centrally and could be supplied only at disproportionate cost. However, as part of the new Government's transparency agenda, grants spending data for 2008-09 and 2009-10 can be found on the Department's website.

Departmental Drinking Water

Nick de Bois: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department has spent on bottled water in each year since 2008. [16877]

Robert Neill: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to my noble Friend, Baroness Warsi on 20 May 2009, *Official Report*, column WA322.

Since that answer was given no bottled mineral water has been purchased by the Department.

Departmental Manpower

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many officials his Department has appointed on a fixed-term contract since 7 May 2010. [16786]

Robert Neill: Between 7 May and 30 September 2010, eight individuals have been appointed through fixed term appointments to the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Departmental NDPBs

Mr Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has for changes to the *(a)* remit and *(b)* functions of each of his Department's non-departmental public bodies; what his most recent estimate is of the cost to the public purse of (i) pension liabilities, (ii) redundancies, (iii) changes to contracts, (iv) transferring functions and (v) other winding-up costs consequent on implementing such changes in respect of each non-departmental public body; and what estimate he has made of the likely effects on his Department's budget of those changes on each non-departmental public body in each of the next three years. [17604]

Robert Neill: I refer the hon. Member to the Minister for the Cabinet Office's statement on the Public Bodies Review Programme on 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 505-06. A copy of the list was placed in the Library of the House and the Vote Office. The changes to CLG's bodies will substantially increase accountability and transparency for the remaining functions.

All of the changes proposed to the Department's public bodies will be delivered within CLG's spending review settlement and, where appropriate, be subject to the outcome of that, impact assessment and consultation.

Departmental Plants

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department *(a)* entered into and *(b)* renewed contracts for pot plant (i) maintenance and (ii) leasing in (A) 2008-09 and (B) 2009-10. [17700]

Robert Neill: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave him on 14 September 2010, *Official Report*, columns 1027-28W. The departmental pot plant contract, initiated by the former Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, has now been cancelled.

Departmental Work Experience

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many interns his Department has engaged in the last 12 months; and how many were *(a)* unpaid, *(b)* remunerated with expenses only and *(c)* paid a salary. [17211]

Robert Neill: The Department for Communities and Local Government engaged 28 interns over the 12 month period to 30 September 2010. None of the engagements were unpaid, six were placed from the Government Legal Intern Programme on two week contracts and were paid £180 per week. The remaining 22 interns were all paid above the national minimum wage for the period of their placements.

Empty Dwelling Management Orders

Mr Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many empty dwelling management orders each local authority has obtained since such orders were introduced. [17621]

Grant Shapps: Number of Empty Dwelling Management Orders issued in each local authority since they were introduced is shown in the following table.

Authority	*Number of EDMOs*
Bolton BC	2
Carlisle DC	2
LB Bromley	1
LB Hammersmith and Fulham	1
LB Hounslow	1
LB Lewisham	7
New Forest DC	1
Norwich CC	6
Oxford City Council	1
Peterborough CC	2
South Gloucestershire Council	1
South Norfolk DC	1
South Oxfordshire DC	1
South Tyneside BC	1
Southend on Sea	3
Staffordshire Moorlands DC	1
Stockton on Tees Council	1
Swale BC	1
Wolverhampton City Council	1
Wychavon DC	1

EU Grants and Loans

James Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has for the *(a)* collection and *(b)* distribution of EU structural funds after the implementation of his proposals to replace regional development authorities with local enterprise partnerships. [16754]

Robert Neill: We are currently considering the future arrangements for running European Regional Development Fund programmes across England, after the abolition of the Regional Development Agencies, and we will make an announcement when the decision has been reached.

Fire Services

Richard Graham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department has taken to end the FireControl Project. [17010]

Robert Neill: As with all major Government projects FiReControl is being reviewed to ensure value-for-money for the taxpayer. We have activated a milestone in our contract with EADS (now branded as Cassidian) that requires them to deliver the main IT system in three Control Centres by mid-2011. We have been clear that EADS must deliver to time, cost and quality. This Government are not prepared to pour any more taxpayers' money into funding their further delays, nor can they cut any corners in the quality of the system they deliver.

Fire Services: Accountability

Chris White: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) whether he has considered the merits of introducing elected fire commissioners; [17425]

(2) whether he has discussed with the Secretary of State for the Home Department the merits of creating jointly-elected fire and policing commissioners. [17429]

Robert Neill: There are no plans to introduce elected fire commissioners and there have been no discussions with the Home Office to create jointly elected fire and policing commissioners.

Fire Services: Finance

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to review the funding criteria for Fire Brigade services with large industrial conurbations. [16906]

Robert Neill: The consultation on Local Government Finance Formula Grant Distribution closed on 6 October 2010. Ministers will take into account all the representations that have been received when making decisions about changes to the formula grant distribution system ahead of the 2011-12 settlement.

The existing fire and rescue relative needs formula, used in the distribution system, includes an indicator based on the number of top tier Control of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH) sites per head. There was no consultation proposal to change this.

Richard Graham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his most recent estimate is of the monthly running costs of empty regional fire control centres. [17008]

Robert Neill: The control centres are currently being used for a range of activities in preparation for the FiReControl system going live.

The following table gives the most recent estimate of the monthly running costs of the control centres.

	£
North East	150,434.00
East Midlands	155,835.00
South West	156,267.00
South East	171,434.00
West Midlands	169,243.00
North West	155,620.00
Yorkshire and Humberside	153,965.00
East of England	168,338.00
London	[1]126,874.00

Note:
The building in London was completed on 26 February 2010 and is rent free until 26 November 2010. This figure is the average monthly running cost for 2010-11. The monthly estimated running cost from December 2010 is £268,320.

Richard Graham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his most recent estimate is of the cost to the public purse of the FireControl Project. [17009]

Robert Neill: The current estimate of the cost of the FiReControl Project is £423 million. As with all major Government projects, it is being reviewed to ensure value for money for the taxpayer.

Fire Services: Redundancy

Richard Graham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many fire fighters in *(a)* Gloucestershire and *(b)* England have been made redundant in each of the last five years. [17007]

Robert Neill: The number of fire fighters who were made redundant in Gloucestershire and England for the period 2006-07 to 2009-10 is shown in the table. The number of redundancies in fire and rescue services was not collected prior to 2005-06 and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Fire fighters made redundant in Gloucestershire and England, 2006-07 to 2009-10

				Number
	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Whole-time fire fighters				
Gloucestershire England	0	0	0	0
England	0	13	2	1
Retained duty system fire fighters				
Gloucestershire	0	0	0	0
England	0	0	0	14

Source:
Fire and Rescue Service Annual Returns to CLG.

Government Offices for the Regions

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reasons he decided to bring forward the consultation period on redundancies at the Government Office network after announcing its closure. [16659]

Greg Clark: The Secretary of State's announcement on 22 July made clear that final decisions regarding the future of the Government offices will be made at the end of the spending review following consideration of consequential issues. As a final decision has not yet been announced, formal consultation has not taken place and has not been brought forward. Officials have met, on an informal basis, with Government office trades union colleagues to jointly plan how best to prepare and respond if the in principle decision to close the network is confirmed. They will continue to work together to ensure that we are best placed to address the people issues that will arise from any final decision to close the GO Network. Any decisions on the redeployment or release of staff will be made once the spending review is complete and GO trades unions will at that point be formally consulted.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations he had received in favour of *(a)* closing and *(b)* maintaining the Government Office Network prior to his announcement to close it. [16660]

Greg Clark: On 22 July the Secretary of State announced the Government's intention in principle to abolish the remaining Government offices. Prior to this announcement the Secretary of State received a number of representations in favour of maintaining Government offices. A number of representations supporting the case for closing Government offices were received in reply to a letter from my hon. Friend the Minister for Housing and Local Government (Grant Shapps) to local authority chief executives and leaders of 28 May asking for their ideas on reducing the burden on local government.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has to reallocate responsibility for functions provided by the Government Office Network following its closure; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of that reallocation. [16661]

Greg Clark: On 22 July the Government announced their intention in principle to abolish the remaining Government Offices subject to consideration of consequential issues, including which Government Office functions need to continue. The Spending Review process is being used to test which activities should continue, and to decide the most cost-effective way of doing this. The final decisions on the future of the Government Office Network, including the transfer of on-going functions, will be announced at the end of the Spending Review.

Housing: Construction

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many houses he expects to be completed in *(a)* 2010, *(b)* 2011 and *(c)* 2012. [17302]

Andrew Stunell: Communities and Local Government does not produce forecasts for house building.

The latest statistics on house building completions in England were published in the Communities and Local Government statistical release of 19 August 2010 and accompanying live tables. The web links are show as follows:

Link to House Building Statistics Release:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/housebuildingq22010

Link to House Building Live Tables:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/housebuilding/livetables/

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* public and *(b)* private sector dwellings have received planning permission for each of the next three years. [17304]

Robert Neill: The information requested is not held centrally.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has to introduce incentives to build new homes. [17474]

Grant Shapps: We are committed to increasing housing supply and seeing more of the homes that people want, in the places that people want them, to meet Britain's housing need. The coalition agreement makes a clear commitment to replace centrally imposed targets with powerful incentives for local authorities so that people see the real benefits of growth.

We have acted quickly to scrap and replace the previous Government's ineffective failed top-down target system.

In a letter to council leaders on 9 August I set out my intention to introduce the cornerstone of this new system, the New Homes Bonus. This will shift power back into the hands of individuals, communities and councils and give local communities a direct and substantial share in growth rather than just absorbing the costs.

A copy of this letter was sent to all MPs and placed in the Library of the House.

We will introduce the scheme early in the spending review following a consultation on the specific scheme design.

Housing: Empty Property

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will bring forward proposals to amend the list of named public authorities in the schedules to the Local Government Planning and Land Act 1980 to enable members of the public to request that publicly-owned abandoned property be brought back into use. [16856]

Greg Clark: Under part 10 of the Local Government, Planning and Land Act 1980 the Secretary of State has the power to make a direction that specific public bodies take steps to dispose of the interest held by them in land. The public bodies to which part 10 applies are set out in schedule 16 of the Act. The Secretary of State may add, amend or delete bodies from schedule 16, following notification to the bodies and allowing time for representations to be made. The Government are looking at amending this list in the near future to include more bodies, as part of a wider initiative to get empty government property back into productive use.

Housing: Energy

Stephen Mosley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department is taking to encourage the building of new housing stock using energy efficient construction standards. [17455]

Andrew Stunell: Communities and Local Government encourages the building of energy efficient housing through the requirements of part L (conservation of fuel and power) of the building regulations. The most recent changes to part L standards introduced on 1 October 2010 require a 25% improvement for every new home. Further changes to strengthen standards in part L and take the next step towards zero carbon buildings are planned for 2013. The Government have announced that a minimum fabric energy efficiency standard will form part of their approach to ensuring that all new homes post-2016 can be zero-carbon.

The Code for Sustainable Homes, which is a voluntary set of standards reaching beyond building regulations, also encourages high levels of energy efficiency. The 2010 revisions to the Code for Sustainable Homes are expected to be published shortly; thereafter the Government plan to review the future role of the code.

Land Use

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much Grade 1 agricultural land has been built on in the last 10 years. [16997]

Andrew Stunell: The most recent available estimates from Communities and Local Government's Land Use Change Statistics show that in the period 2003-08, around 1,500 hectares of grade 1 agricultural land changed to a developed use. In the same period, in total some 67,000 hectares of land changed to a developed use.

Local Development Frameworks

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department issues to local authorities on the use of population projections issued by the Office for National Statistics in amending their local development frameworks. [17698]

Robert Neill: The following documents refer to population projections issued by the Office for National Statistics when producing development plans:

Employment Land Reviews Guidance Note, published 2004;

Strategic Housing Market Assessments Practice Guidance, published 2007;

Planning Policy Statement 4 on Sustainable Economic Growth, published 2009; and

Planning for Town Centres: Practical Guidance on Need, Impact and the Sequential Approach, published 2009.

Planning Policy Statement 3 on Housing, reissued 2010, advises local authorities they should take account of, amongst other things, the Government's latest household projections. These are derived from the latest Office for National Statistics population projections.

Local Enterprise Partnerships

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he plans to take to ensure that all parts of the country are represented by local enterprise partnerships. [17198]

Robert Neill: Local enterprise partnerships have an important role to play in delivering the right business environment in which private sector jobs and enterprise can flourish. As strategic partnerships of local business and councils, local enterprise partnerships are well placed to create the conditions for businesses to grow and prosper.

Local enterprise partnerships are voluntary. And, as such, the Government have not mandated their establishment.

Following the 6 September deadline for local enterprise partnership proposals we received 62 submissions—56 for local enterprise partnerships proposals and six proposals for local partnership working. I am delighted that the proposals cover every part of the country (apart from London where the Mayor and London boroughs have been invited to come forward with local enterprise partnership proposals by 5 November).

The Government will make an announcement on local enterprise partnerships shortly.

Local Government Finance

Mr Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what mechanisms will be in place after the closure of the Audit Commission to protect from dismissal by local authorities auditors who make declarations in the public interest as part of an audit report. [17550]

Robert Neill: Subject to Parliament's agreement, auditors of local authorities will operate after the disbandment of the Audit Commission within a new statutory framework, overseen by the profession and the National Audit Office. This will provide for auditors to make public interest reports and will include protections to ensure their independence. As my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government told the House, we are now working with the Audit Commission and other partners to complete the detailed design of these new arrangements.

Mr Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authorities were audited by *(a)* the district auditor and *(b)* private companies in each of the last three years; and if he will make an estimate of the monetary value of (i) the accounts audited by each type of auditor and (ii) the cost to the public purse of the work undertaken on such accounts by each type of auditor in each such year. [17552]

Robert Neill: The information requested, which has been provided by the Audit Commission, is set out in the following table:

	2007-08		*2008-09*		*2009-10*	
	District Auditor	*Private Company*	*District Auditor*	*Private Company*	*District Auditor*	*Private Company*
Number of local authorities audited	249	139	263	125	245	108
Estimated total gross revenue expenditure[1] (£ billion)	86	41	90	40	98	40
Estimated total audit fees[2] (£ million)	45	24	49	24	50	22

[1] For the estimated monetary value of the accounts audited, the information provided is the estimated gross revenue expenditure by authorities, as would be shown in the net cost of services section of an authority's Income and Expenditure account.

[2] For the estimated monetary value of the cost to the public purse of the work undertaken on those accounts, the information provided is the audit fees charged by the Commission to local authorities, excluding value added tax.

Local Government: North West

Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the change in the number of jobs in the local government sector in the North West arising from reductions in central government expenditure. [17086]

Robert Neill: Savings in local government expenditure—and the implications of those savings—are being considered as part of the Spending Review. It is for individual councils to make local decisions about how their workforces are organised and managed to deliver efficient services for local taxpayers.

Local Government: Public Consultation

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he is taking to encourage the use of best practice in the transfer of local authority facilities to community control. [16593]

Greg Clark: The Government are funding the Asset Transfer Unit (ATU) to promote best practice in asset transfer to communities and to support 20 local authorities and their community sector partners to develop asset transfer strategies and projects through the final year of the Advancing Assets for Communities demonstration programme. As a result of the experience gained from these programmes, specialist advice is being produced to support asset transfer to communities, including 'Managing Risks in Asset Transfer' and technical guides on transfer of heritage assets, swimming pools, open spaces and building design. The ATU has also published a Partnership Routemap to make the most of partnership in the asset transfer process; and the ATU website:

www.atu.org.uk

includes a 'support map' which provides a visual guide through the asset transfer journey. A video website entitled 'Building Community' can also be accessed via the ATU website and features real-time practice from partnerships comprising councils and communities that are in the process of transferring land or buildings into community asset ownership.

Natural Gas: Storage

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he or officials of his Department have met representatives of *(a)* Halite Energy Group and *(b)* Canatxx since his appointment. [17330]

Robert Neill: We have had no meetings with representatives from Canataxx/Halite Energy Group since our appointment.

Non-domestic Rates

Penny Mordaunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will bring forward proposals to reduce the level of business rates; and if he will make a statement. [17938]

Robert Neill: The new Government have doubled the level of small business rate relief for one year from October, cancelled certain backdated business rates liabilities (the unfair ports tax), and are also considering the possibility of giving local authorities wide-ranging, discretionary powers to grant business rate discounts. Further support for business will need to be made in the context of our efforts to reduce the deficit.

Non-domestic Rates: Renewable Energy

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made on the proposal in the coalition agreement to allow communities that host renewable energy projects to keep the additional business rate revenue that they generate. [16853]

Robert Neill: We will publish a White Paper on sub-national growth soon after the spending review, which will set out the Government's position on business rate incentives, including enabling those local authorities that host renewable energy projects to keep the additional business rates that they generate.

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent estimate he has made of the average level of business rate payable in respect of onshore wind turbines. [16854]

Robert Neill: No estimate has been made of the average level of business rate payable in respect of onshore wind turbines. The rateable value of individual hereditaments can be found on the Valuation Office Agency's website:

http://www.2010.voa.gov.uk/rli/

Planning Permission

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions he has had with Ministers on the use of technical language in planning applications. [17475]

Robert Neill: I have not held any recent discussions with Ministers on this subject. However, I wholeheartedly agree with my hon. Friend that planning applications need to be as clear as possible, so that they can be fully understood not only by the planning authority but also by statutory consultees, the local community, and any other parties who may be affected by the planning decision. It is in everyone's interests to keep technical jargon to a minimum.

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance he issues to planning authorities on the acceptability of technical language in planning applications; what recent representations he has received on the accessibility of planning applications containing such language to non-specialist elected councillors; and if he will make a statement. [17476]

Robert Neill: My Department does not issue guidance specifically advising against the use of technical jargon in planning applications. However, it does advise planning authorities to ensure that they fully understand each development proposal before they consider whether or not it should be granted planning permission. Developers are encouraged to provide only information that is relevant, necessary and material to their application, and to keep the volume of supporting documentation to a minimum, so that their proposals are clear. Local authorities have the right to request clarification from applicants during the determination period, and—if these requests are not met to their satisfaction—may refuse to grant planning permission. I have not received any recent representations on the accessibility of planning applications containing technical jargon.

The new Government are supportive of the Local Government Association campaign against jargon and its 250 banned words from 'Goldfish Bowl facilitated conversations' to the 'wellderly'. And, as outlined in his speech of 6 July 2010, the Secretary of State has pledged to abolish the TLA (Three Letter Abbreviation), such as the IPC, CAA and RSSs.

Planning Permission: Public Consultation

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many applications for judicial review relating to local authority planning consultation activities were made in the latest period for which figures are available. [17967]

Robert Neill: The Department does not keep records of such challenges.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance he issues to local authorities on the consultation required as part of the process to determine a planning application which a local authority has sponsored. [17970]

Robert Neill: The consultation required for applications by the local authority is no different from any other consultation that would need to be undertaken by the applicant (except that the council needs not formally consult itself). The relevant procedures are set out by articles 16-18 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010.

Planning Policy Statement 12 (2008) sets out a requirement for local authorities to prepare a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). In the statement, each local authority should explain the process and methods it uses to achieve effective community involvement in the determination of planning applications.

Public Sector: Maps

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department's public sector mapping agreement will cover definitive footpath maps. [16830]

Robert Neill: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 11 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 44W. Local authorities are responsible for maintaining definitive maps, which depict public rights of way including footpaths. Where these maps are based on Ordnance Survey mapping, the production, maintenance and provision of arrangements for inspection of these maps by members of the public will be covered by the terms of the Public Sector Mapping Agreement.

Religious Buildings: Construction

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what planning guidance his Department issues on the construction of places of worship in residential areas. [16706]

Robert Neill: We have issued no planning guidance specific to the construction of places of worship in residential areas. Planning Policy Statement 1 'Delivering Sustainable Development' does state, however, that planning authorities should build a clear understanding of the make-up, interests and needs of the community and any interest groups in their areas, some of which may relate to particular values or religion. All these groups should be encouraged to participate in the plan-making process. If a proposal for a new place of worship is made, the application should be decided in the light of policies in the local development framework and any other material consideration.

Repossession Orders

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of domestic dwellings repossessed in 2009-10. [17303]

Andrew Stunell: There are two independent sources of data on actual numbers of mortgage possessions: The Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML) and the Financial Services Authority (FSA).

The Council of Mortgage Lenders latest press release on repossessions is on their website at:

http://www.cml.org.uk/cml/media/press/2680

The Financial Services Authority data is available on their website at:

http://www.fsa.gov.uk/pages/Library/Other_publications/statistics/index.shtml

Second Homes

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what estimate he has made of the likely change in the number of second homes as a proportion of national housing stock in the next five years; [17004]

(2) what recent estimate he has made of the monetary value of second homes; [17005]

(3) what recent estimate he has made of the proportion of housing stock comprised by second homes *(a)* nationally, *(b)* in each region and *(c)* in each local authority. [17006]

Robert Neill: I have today placed in the Library of the House, a table giving details of the number of dwellings, the number of dwellings registered as second homes for council tax purposes, and the proportion this figure is of the total number of dwellings for each local authority area in England as at October 2009. The data are also shown by region and for all England.

The data are as reported to Communities and Local Government by all 326 billing authorities in England on the annual Council Tax Base (CTB) form.

No estimates have been made of the likely change in the number of second homes as a proportion of national housing stock in the next five years or of the monetary value of second homes.

Urban Areas: Regeneration

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department provides to local authorities on encouraging town centre regeneration. [17530]

Robert Neill: Planning Policy Statement 4 (PPS4): "Planning for Sustainable Economic Growth" sets out national planning policy for economic development, including in town centres.

PPS4 asks local planning authorities to consider the scope for consolidating and strengthening town centres that are in decline by focusing a wider range of services there, promoting the diversification of uses and improving the environment.

CABINET OFFICE

Cancer: Females

Stephen McPartland: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the five-year mortality rate for females diagnosed with *(a)* lung cancer and *(b)* breast cancer was in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [17903]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, October 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the five-year mortality rate for females diagnosed with (a) lung cancer and (b) breast cancer was in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [017903]

The latest five-year survival figures available for (a) lung cancer and (b) breast cancer are for persons diagnosed in 2003 - 2007 and followed up to 2008. The figures for females are presented in Table 1 below, with comparable figures for 2000 - 2004 with follow up to 2005, and 2002 - 2006 with follow up to 2007.

Survival figures for England published by ONS, for 21 common cancers, are available on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=14007

Table 1: Five-year relative survival (%) for females (aged 15 to 99) diagnosed with cancer in England, by period of diagnosis[1,2,3]

Time period	*Cancer*	
	Lung	*Breast*
Patients diagnosed 2000-04, followed up to 2005	8.2	81.1
Patients diagnosed 2001-06, followed up to 2007	8.7	82.0
Patients diagnosed 2003-07, followed up to 2008	[4]8.7	83.3

[1] Relative survival is the probability of survival (shown here as a percentage) after correction for other causes of death.

[2] Because cancer survival varies with age at diagnosis, the summary survival estimates for all ages combined (15 to 99 years) have been age-standardised to control for changes in the age profile of cancer patients over time.

[3] Breast cancer is defined by the International Classification of Diseases, tenth revision (ICD-10) code C50 and lung cancer by the ICD-10 codes C33 and C34.

[4] It is not possible to give an age-standardised figure if there are too few patients in a given age group to provide a reliable survival estimate or if very few patients actually died in one of the intervals of time since diagnosis in which survival was estimated. That may happen because survival is very high (there are very few deaths) or because it is very low (most of the patients died). These figures refer to the unstandardised survival.

Chief Scientific Adviser

Dr Huppert: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office on how many occasions each Minister in the Cabinet Office has met the Chief Scientific Adviser since 6 May 2010. [15351]

Mr Maude: The Minister for Government Policy has met with the chief scientific adviser on one occasion since 6 May 2010. No other Cabinet Office Ministers have met with the adviser.

Civil Servants: Redundancy Pay

Pat Glass: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many civil servants employed on the latest date for which figures are available would be entitled to redundancy payments of the value of six and two-thirds years of annual salary on termination of their contracts. [15584]

Mr Maude: The number of individuals who are entitled to redundancy payments of the value of six and two-thirds years of annual salary on termination of their employment could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

However, the number of staff who would be entitled to an enhancement of their reckonable service of six and two-thirds years (i.e. would receive a pension based on a greater length of employment than actually served) when departing on the current compulsory early retirement terms was at least 36,000 as on 31 March 2009, the latest date for which we have figures.

Departmental Secondment

Ian Austin: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many staff his Department has appointed on secondment since 7 May 2010; and from what organisation each such member of staff has been seconded. [16259]

Mr Maude: Since 7 May to 8 October 2010, the Cabinet Office has made 12 inward secondment appointments.

The following organisations have seconded their staff to Cabinet Office:

Barclays
Hampshire County Council
Hillingdon Council
House of Lords
IBM
Institute of Government
NHS Direct
Partnership UK
PricewaterhouseCoopers
Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency
Raceonline 2012

Ministers

Mr Chope: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will estimate the annual cost to the public purse of the change in the number of Ministers and Whips drawn from the House of Commons since the dissolution of the previous Parliament. [17781]

Mr Maude: The number of salaried Ministers is governed by the Ministerial and other Salaries Act 1975. The House of Commons Disqualification Act 1975 limits the number of Ministers that may sit in the House of Commons. There has been no change to the legislation.

On appointment after the general election, Ministers decided to take a 5% pay reduction on the salaries paid to their predecessors and a pay freeze has been imposed for the lifetime of this Parliament.

National Security Council

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many meetings of the National Security Council (NSC) have been held since its inception; when each such NSC meeting was held; how many further such meetings are planned to be held in 2010; and what the cost is of holding each NSC meeting. [16777]

Mr Letwin: There have been 20 meetings of the National Security Council (NSC) since its inception.

The Council has met on the following dates: 12 May, 18 May, 26 May, 1 June, 8 June, 15 June, 21 June, 30 June, 6 July, 13 July, 22 July, 26 July, 12 August, 25 August, 1 September, 9 September, 23 September, 28 September, 7 October and 12 October. There are currently nine further meetings planned in 2010.

The National Security Secretariat, which is responsible for organising NSC meetings, does not attach a specific cost to each session. The principal costs associated with the meetings are made up of ministerial and official's time, and secretarial support. Ministers attending the Council are supported by existing resources within their

Departments. Other costs are met in the routine discharge of Secretariat's responsibilities in support of the National Security Adviser.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Borders: Personal Records

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will estimate the total passenger volumes which would have been achieved under the e-Borders programme to date without carrier exemptions. [17724]

Damian Green: There are no carriers who have been exempted from supplying data. Prior to the termination of the contract with the supplier, the e-Borders programme had forecast to be processing 95% of all passengers into and out of the UK by December 2010.

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what meetings Ministers in her Department have held with representatives of Raythen to discuss the e-Borders programme since the inception of that programme. [17778]

Damian Green: There have been no meetings held between this Government's Home Department Ministers and representatives of Raytheon to discuss the e-Borders programme.

Community Policing: Greater London

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department allocated to the Metropolitan Police Service for neighbourhood policing in each financial year since 2004-05. [17769]

Nick Herbert: The amounts allocated to the Metropolitan Police Service specifically for neighbourhood policing through the Neighbourhood Policing Fund, including police community support officers funding, are as shown in the table. However, it is for the Metropolitan Police Service to decide how much of its total funding from Government it wishes to spend on neighbourhood policing.

	£ million
2004-05	17.2
2005-06	21.0
2006-07	58.9
2007-08	94.1
2008-09	96.6
2009-10	99.2

Constitution and Home Affairs

Alan Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to her contribution of 7 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 179, on constitution and home affairs, what the evidential basis was for her statement that the incidence of violent crime had increased. [15786]

Nick Herbert: The statement my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary made to the House was based on a range of evidence on violent crime trends.

Among these were the two main sources of official statistics on trends in crime are the British Crime Survey and Police recorded crime. However, both these sets of statistics are known to have different strengths and weaknesses and provide an incomplete picture.

It is important that crime statistics are robust and trustworthy so that the public can have faith and confidence in them and this is why we are reviewing how crime statistics should be collected and published in the future.

Crime

Steve McCabe: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of trends in the levels of *(a)* overall crime, *(b)* domestic burglary, *(c)* vehicle related crime and *(d)* violent crime between 1997 and 2010. [12220]

Nick Herbert: There are two main sources of officials statistics on trends in crime; the British Crime Survey and Police recorded crime. Both sets of statistics have different strengths and weaknesses and provide an incomplete picture.

Statistics on the number of incidents from the two sources are published annually in the Home Office statistical bulletin, Crime in England and Wales, a copy of which is available in the House of Commons Library.

It is important that crime statistics are robust and trustworthy so that the public can have faith and confidence in them and this is why we are reviewing how crime statistics should be collected and published in the future.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has made an estimate of the change in the level of carbon dioxide emissions from her Department since May 2010; and what steps she plans to take to meet her Department's target of reducing such emissions by 10% by May 2011. [16812]

Nick Herbert: The main steps my Department is taking to meet the 10% target include:

Improve heating controls
Improve lighting control and fittings
Replace boilers
Estate consolidation
Staff awareness
Replace/remove inefficient equipment
Good housekeeping
Draught proofing and insulation
Greening ICT.

The Department produces and sets out publicly progress made and measures taken to deliver the target. This can be found at:

http://data.gov.uk/departmental-performance-co2-emissions-reduction-date

Departmental Manpower

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many officials her Department has appointed on fixed-term contracts since 7 May 2010. [16794]

Nick Herbert: Since 7 May 2010, the Home Office (excluding its agencies) has appointed 46 members of staff on fixed-term contracts.

Of these, 27 (including 18 sandwich course students on a one-year placement as part of a degree course) were appointed on fixed-term contracts that were offered and accepted by the applicants prior to the Chancellor's announcement of a recruitment freeze across the civil service in May 2010.

In addition, 17 undergraduates were appointed under the Fast Stream Summer Development Programme (SDP) and Summer Placement Scheme (SPS), and a further two undergraduates were appointed under the Windsor Fellowship. The SDP and SPS are offered to undergraduates from ethnic minority backgrounds and with disabilities respectively, and the Windsor Fellowship is a Leadership Programme for ethnic minority undergraduates who have been identified as having leadership potential. All 19 appointments relate to the Graduate Fast Stream Programme and were therefore exempt from the recruitment freeze announced by the Chancellor in May 2010.

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* officials of her Department and *(b)* external advisers are working on her Department's consultation on the limit to be set on the number of non-EU migrants to the UK. [17054]

Damian Green: Four officials within the UK Border Agency are dedicated directly to the limits on non-EU economic migration consultation but they are supported by a number of others, with wider duties in areas such as statistical and economic analysis, legal advice and related policy matters. No external advisers have been working on the consultation.

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* officials of her Department and *(b)* external advisers are working on her Department's consultation into the establishment of elected police commissioners. [17055]

Nick Herbert: Officials from within the Policing Directorate in the Home Office are leading on the development of the policy to introduce elected Police and Crime Commissioners. This includes a policy team of seven people in the Police Reform Unit, with help and support from others on specific aspects as needed.

Responses to the Policing in the 21st Century consultation document have been submitted by a range of external bodies. The Home Office has not contracted any external advisers to work on the Commissioners policy.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if her Department will take steps to assess the effects on *(a)* equality of incomes, *(b)* equality of assets and *(c)* equality of access to services of measures relating to its expenditure under consideration in the Spending Review. [16378]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office will ensure the relevant equality considerations are taken into account in the context of expenditure under consideration in the spending review, in compliance with our obligations under the Sex Discrimination Act 1975, the Race Relations Act 1976, and the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to recruit staff to senior civil service posts in the next 12 months; and if she will make a statement. [17350]

Nick Herbert: On 24 May 2010 the Government announced a freeze on external recruitment to the civil service. The freeze took effect immediately. The Home Office currently has no plans to recruit staff into senior civil service roles.

Departmental Redundancy Pay

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what severance payment was made to each *(a)* Minister and *(b)* special adviser in her Department who left office after the last general election. [14659]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 16 September 2010]:* I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to the hon. Member for Perth and North Perthshire (Pete Wishart) on 5 July 2010, *Official Report,* column 55W, which lists the total severance payments made to Ministers from each Department who left office following the general election.

Severance payments for paid Government Ministers and other office holders are governed by legislation, specifically section 5 of the Ministerial and other Pensions and Salaries Act 1991. Those individuals who leave office under the age of 65 and who do not take up another relevant office within three weeks (six weeks for Opposition office holders at the time of the election) are entitled to receive one-quarter of their annual claimed salary as a severance payment. The total severance payments to all eligible former Ministers and other office holders in the former Government in the Home Office was £73,421.

This is separate from resettlement grants available to members of Parliament upon leaving the House of Commons.

The Government publish annually the total cost of special advisers in the form of a written ministerial statement by the Prime Minister. The total cost of severance paid out to special advisers who left office after the last general election will be published in due course.

Departmental Secondment

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff her Department has appointed on secondment since 7 May 2010; and from what organisation each such member of staff has been seconded. [16262]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office headquarters has appointed no staff on secondment since 7 May 2010.

Entry Clearances

Jesse Norman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which organisations her Department authorises to issue visas to non-EU citizens. [17531]

Damian Green: No commercial organisation is authorised to issue UK visas. The UK Border Agency has contracts with two suppliers, VFS Global and CSC Worldbridge, to provide visa application support services overseas. The two commercial partners operate 101 visa applications centres in 48 countries. Their staff have no involvement in the decision-making process, which remains exclusively the responsibility of UK Border Agency entry clearance officers.

Entry Clearances: Skilled Workers

Joseph Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on the likely effects on the competitiveness of the economy in London of a cap on work visas for highly-skilled migrants from outside the EU. [17348]

Damian Green: The Secretary of State for the Home Department has regular discussions with all her colleagues, covering a range of issues, including the forthcoming limit on economic migration.

Officials from the Home Office and UK Border Agency have worked closely with their colleagues from Business, Innovation and Skills, on all aspects of the policy.

Extradition: USA

Alan Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the operation of the UK-US Extradition Treaty. [14754]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 13 September 2010]:* The extradition treaty will be carefully examined to ensure it is even-handed as part of the review of extradition which my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary announced on 8 September 2010.

Freedom of Information Act 2000

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reason Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary is not a public authority for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act 2000; and if she will make a statement. [17449]

Nick Herbert: We set out in the Policing in the 21st Century consultation document that we intend to reform Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary to ensure it becomes a stronger advocate of the public interest and we will be publishing our response shortly.

Human Trafficking

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many victims of trafficking have been identified through the national referral mechanism since April 2009; [17624]

(2) how many victims of human trafficking have been identified *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in Leicestershire in each of the last five years. [17625]

Damian Green: Between 1 April 2009 and 30 September 2010 1,048 cases were referred into the national referral mechanism. Of the 857 reasonable grounds decisions made by 30 September 2010, competent authority decision makers found reasonable grounds to believe trafficking had occurred in 534 cases. Prior to 1 April 2009 the UK did not have a national system to track and confirm victim status.

The Government do not record victims identified by county.

Human Trafficking: Prostitution

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been charged with offences relating to trafficking of female prostitution in London since 1 January 2010. [16074]

Damian Green: Figures from the Metropolitan Police Service show that 20 people have been charged with trafficking for sexual exploitation in London since 1 January 2010.

Identity Theft

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has had recent discussions with ministerial colleagues on measures to prevent identity fraud; and if she will make a statement. [16922]

Nick Herbert: The National Fraud Authority and National Fraud Intelligence Bureau have recently undertaken a review of the threats to the UK presented by identity crime. Building on this review, a multi-agency strategic group, led by the Home Office, has been established to agree and implement a plan to tackle identity crime and will be reporting to Ministers in due course. This group includes representation from across Government.

Immobilisation of Vehicles

Angie Bray: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations she has received from private property owners on the effects on them of her proposals to prohibit wheel clamping on private land. [17477]

Lynne Featherstone: Since I announced on 17 August the Government's intention to ban clamping and towing on private land, we have received a number of letters and e-mails from hon. Members and members of the public. Issues raised in these letters include concerns about how landowners will be able to control unwanted parking once the ban takes effect and whether other methods of parking control such as ticketing and barriers will be effective in practice.

Together with the Department for Transport we are considering how best to address these concerns.

Investigatory Powers Tribunal

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions her Department has used its powers under section 67(9) of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 to enable an appeal against the Investigatory Powers Tribunal in each of the last three years. [16577]

Nick Herbert: Sections 67(9) and 65(2)(c) and (d) of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 are not in force. It follows that no order is in force under section 67(8) of that Act.

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the Investigatory Powers Tribunal. [16578]

Nick Herbert: The Government consider that the Investigatory Powers Tribunal (IPT) fulfils its functions, which are set out in the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000, effectively.

This is an important means by which individuals can complain where they think their human rights have been infringed as a result of actions carried out by or on behalf of any of the intelligence services, and in certain circumstances, by certain public authorities. In 2009, the IPT completed the investigation of 125 complaints and claims under the Human Rights Act.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to respond to the letter from the right hon. Member for Warley of 16 August 2010 regarding Mr Unis. [17517]

Damian Green: The chief executive of the UK Border Agency wrote to the right hon. Member for Warley (Mr Spellar) in response to the letter regarding Mr Unis, on 21 September 2010.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton of 31 August 2010, on Ms P. A. Bello. [17680]

Damian Green: I wrote to the right hon. Member on 12 October 2010.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton of 23 August 2010, on Mr H. A. Suleman. [17681]

Damian Green: I wrote to the right hon. Member on 12 October 2010.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton of 16 July 2010, on Ms S. Sundry. [17682]

Damian Green: I replied to the right hon. Member on behalf of the Home Secretary on 3 August 2010.

Missing Persons

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what proposals she has for the provision of future missing person services in the National Crime Agency; and if she will make a statement; [15892]

(2) what assessment she has made of the merits of establishing a single inclusive missing persons service; and if she will make a statement. [15893]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 11 October 2010]:* The recent consultation document "Policing in the 21st Century" announced the Government's intention to create a powerful new body of operational crime fighters, the National Crime Agency (NCA).

The consultation document invited views, by 20 September, on the functions that a new National Crime Agency might deliver, in addition to tackling organised crime. A decision on the exact nature of the NCA's future role, in addition to its organised crime and border policing functions, has yet to be made, but one of the Government's aims are to declutter the policing landscape. We are in the process of considering all the responses, including the possibility of including missing persons investigations within the NCA, and my right hon. Friend, the Home Secretary has committed to publishing figures on cost and the business case for the NCA in due course.

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what response she plans to make to the recommendations of the final report of the Missing Persons Taskforce on providing support to families of missing people; [16344]

(2) what policies will be put in place in the Crime Prevention Agency to ensure that best practice is observed in responding to reports of missing children. [16345]

Nick Herbert: Work is currently under way to consider the delivery of missing persons services within the context of the policing framework outlined in the Government consultation document, 'Policing in the 21st Century'. The consultation closed on 20 September and the Government are considering the responses.

Police National Computer

Claire Perry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions errors in records of criminal convictions held on the Police National Computer have been identified in each of the last three years. [17171]

Nick Herbert: This information is not held centrally.

Police: Accountability

Alan [illegible]hnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which *(a)* chief constables, *(b)* police authority chairs and *(c)* local authority leaders have indicated support for her proposals to replace police authorities by an elected police commissioner. [14054]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office is engaging constructively with key policing stakeholders on the development of our proposals to introduce police and crime commissioners in England and Wales.

These proposals were set out in the Policing in the 21st Century consultation document, published on 26 July 2010. Formal consultation on the proposals to introduce directly elected commissioners ended on 20 September. Responses have been submitted by a range of policing partners and these will now be considered before the publication of the Government response in the autumn.

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the likely cost to the West Midlands Police of the implementation of her proposals for directly-elected police commissioners. [17011]

Nick Herbert: We will provide a full assessment of the costs of police and crime commissioners in due course.

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate her Department has made of the cost of *(a)* the election of police commissioners and *(b)* establishing police and crime panels. [18009]

Nick Herbert: The Government's Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill will be accompanied with a legislative impact assessment which will set out the estimates of the cost for Police and Crime Commissioners.

Police: Crime Prevention

Alan Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to her speech to the Superintendents' Association in Cheshire on 15 September 2010, which police forces in the UK have achieved significant reductions in crime alongside reduced police numbers; and what the reduction in the level of crime was in each such area. [16336]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 11 October 2010]:* In the 12 months to 31 March 2010, when the right hon. Gentleman was Home Secretary, 26 of the 43 police forces of England and Wales had a reduction in numbers of police officers. These police forces and the corresponding changes in recorded crime figures are given in the table.

Forces which had a decrease in police numbers between 31 March 2009 and 31 March 2010 and their corresponding changes in recorded crime

	Strength as at:		*Change in 12 months*		*Offences recorded*		*Change in 12 months*	
	March 2009	*March 2010*	*March 2009*	*March 2010*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*		
Police force	*FTE*	*FTE*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Number*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Avon and Somerset	3,355	3,302	-54	-1.6	138,083	125,899	-12,184	-9
Cheshire	2,180	2,155	-25	-1.1	75,098	67,032	-8,066	-11
Cleveland	1,756	1,724	-32	-1.8	55,092	47,255	-7,837	-14
Cumbria	1,284	1,238	-46	-3.6	30,961	28,333	-2,628	-8
Derbyshire	2,137	2,074	-62	-2.9	73,660	68,005	-5,655	-8
Dorset	1,512	1,486	-25	-1.7	50,648	48,237	-2,411	-5
Durham	1,588	1,507	-81	-5.1	45,073	40,423	-4,650	-10
Dyfed-Powys	1,197	1,195	-3	-0.2	24,114	22,377	-1,737	-7
Gloucestershire	1,372	1,309	-63	-4.6	44,136	38,270	-5,866	-13
Greater Manchester	8,232	8,148	-84	-1.0	283,176	246,416	-36,760	-13
Gwent	1,438	1,437	-1	-0.1	49,169	50,842	1,673	3
Hampshire	3,811	3,748	-63	-1.7	159,403	142,261	-17,142	-11
Hertfordshire	2,172	2,130	-42	-1.9	76,152	70,001	-6,151	-8
Humberside	2,110	2,058	-53	-2.5	89,767	80,663	-9,104	-10
Kent	3,799	3,787	-12	-0.3	121,049	106,727	-14,322	-12
Lancashire	3,753	3,649	-104	-2.8	117,575	107,361	-10,214	-9
Leicestershire	2,363	2,317	-46	-2.0	86,323	81,244	-5,079	-6
Lincolnshire	1,229	1,206	-23	-1.9	49,547	46,927	-2,620	-5
South Yorkshire	3,053	2,953	-101	-3.3	130,172	112,869	-17,303	-13
Staffordshire	2,211	2,161	-50	-2.2	85,237	76,137	-9,100	-11
Suffolk	1,291	1,246	-45	-3.5	46,467	46,447	-20	0
Warwickshire	994	973	-21	-2.1	37,368	33,828	-3,540	-9
West Mercia	2,471	2,391	-80	-3.2	77,443	71,291	-6,152	-8
West Midlands	8,637	8,626	-10	-0.1	227,720	211,399	-16,321	-7
West Yorkshire	5,854	5,758	-96	-1.6	217,236	197,553	-19,683	-9
Wiltshire	1,229	1,181	-48	-3.9	41,468	38,671	-2,797	-7

Police: Essex

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department holds information on the number of *(a)* male and *(b)* female officers of each rank in Essex Police who left their posts voluntarily for reasons other than redundancy since December 2009. [17419]

Nick Herbert: The information is collected on a financial year basis and the following table sets out the number of leavers from the Essex Police, excluding those that have been dismissed, for 2009-10.

Police officer leavers (excluding dismissals) from 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010, Essex police force, by rank and gender

			Full-time equivalents
	Male	*Female*	*Total*
Chief Officer rank	1	0	1
Chief Superintendent	3	0	3
Superintendent	1	0	1
Chief Inspector	1	0	1
Inspector	15	0	15

Police officer leavers (excluding dismissals) from 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010, Essex police force, by rank and gender

			Full-time equivalents
	Male	*Female*	*Total*
Sergeant	46	2	48
Constable	130	28	158
Total	197	30	227

Note:
Figures include voluntary resignations, normal retirements, medical retirements, transfers and death.

Police: Finance

Alan Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to her speech to the Superintendents' Association in Cheshire on 15 September 2010, what her Department's estimate is of the level of reduction that can be made to the police budget without affecting police numbers. [16337]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 11 October 2010]:* The effectiveness and efficiency of a force can not be judged on the number of police officers it has, rather it is the way those officers are used that matters. It is not for Ministers to decide on how resources are used, but chief constables need to ensure that the police work force is more productive than currently.

The spending review which reports on 20 October will provide further clarity on future funding for the police service.

Police: Greater London

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the likely effects on police *(a)* staffing levels and *(b)* detection rates in Greater London of Metropolitan Police Service spending reductions of (i) 10, (ii) 20 and (iii) 30 per cent. [16603]

Nick Herbert: The future funding settlement for policing as a whole will be determined by the Spending Review which will be announced on 20 October. Allocations for individual forces, including the Metropolitan Police Service, will be placed before Parliament in early December. It would be wrong to speculate on the outcome for specific forces at this time.

My right hon. Friend, the Home Secretary, has been clear that the police service must play its part in reducing the deficit. Decisions about the number of police officers, police community support officers and other police staff engaged by the Metropolitan Police Service and how they are deployed within the force are a matter for the Metropolitan Police Commissioner and the Police Authority.

Police: Helicopters

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will discuss with *(a)* chief constables and *(b)* the Association of Chief Police Officers measures to improve efficiency in the use of police helicopters through (i) reducing the number of such helicopters and (ii) sharing the use of such helicopters over police authority borders. [17106]

Nick Herbert: Hampshire Constabulary Chief Constable Alex Marshall, Aviation Portfolio holder for the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), is leading a review into the way police air support is currently provided across England and Wales. The review, supported by the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA), is looking at a number of options that will improve efficiency in the use of police helicopters, including a reduction in their numbers and sharing them across police authority boundaries.

The results of the review are being presented to ACPO later this month.

Police: Northumbria

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the potential effects on police *(a)* staffing headcount and *(b)* detection rates in Northumbria of police service expenditure reductions of (i) 10, (ii) 20 and (iii) 30 per cent. [17594]

Nick Herbert: The future funding settlement for policing as a whole will be determined by the spending review which will be announced on 20 October. Allocations for individual forces, including Northumbria police, will be placed before Parliament in early December. It would be wrong to speculate on the outcome for specific forces at this time.

My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has been clear that the police service must play its part in reducing the deficit. Decisions about the number of police officers, police community support officers and other police staff engaged by Northumbria police and how they are deployed within the force are a matter for the chief constable and the police authority.

Police: Procurement

Richard Harrington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what consideration she has given to the merits of facilitating centralised procurement for supplies and information technology for police forces. [17458]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 14 October 2010]:* Police authorities have overall responsibility for the procurement procedures that each police force in England and Wales uses. However, the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) is currently working with key stakeholders in this area as part of the Collaborative Police Procurement Programme (CPPP).

Key elements of this programme include moving towards a more standardised requirement, and leveraging the buying power of the wider Police Service through central contracts.

Three examples of centralised national procurement within the area of non information technology (IT) are the delivery of the National Forensic Framework, the recently let National Fleet Framework and the mobile phone contract, which is soon to be awarded. Central procurement activity is ongoing in both IT and non IT areas and includes categories such as uniforms, aviation, body armour, firearms, utilities, language services and IT hardware.

Within IT a considerable number of services are already provided through centralised procurement. These include contract provision of the police 'Airwave' radio service, Ident1 fingerprint capture and matching, Police National Network (PNN3) and applications such as Holmes2 which is utilised by police forces in major enquiries. In addition, proposals for mandating certain goods and services for policing have been the subject of a recent consultation in the interests of efficiency.

Surveillance

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will bring forward proposals further to limit the circumstances in which surveillance powers may be used. [16579]

Nick Herbert: The Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) provides the relevant regulatory mechanism. RIPA provides statutory limitations and safeguards on public authority use of covert surveillance likely to obtain private information. We are working closely with the Communities and Local Government Department and the Ministry of Justice to implement the Government's commitment to further limit local authority use of covert surveillance under RIPA and will announce the detail shortly.

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will bring forward proposals to reduce the number of public bodies entitled to exercise surveillance powers. [16580]

Nick Herbert: The Government are committed to limiting local authority access to covert surveillance under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 and will be announcing how best to implement the changes shortly.

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will bring forward legislative proposals to ensure that all interception of communications and intrusive surveillance are authorised by judicial warrant. [16620]

Nick Herbert: We have no plans to do so. Interception of communications refers to the interception of a communication during the course of its transmission so as to make it available to a third party. The Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 ('RIPA') requires that, with some exceptions such as interception by consent, this is authorised by Secretary of State warrant.

Intrusive surveillance is covert surveillance in someone's private home or vehicle. RIPA requires that intrusive surveillance is authorised by Secretary of State warrant (for intelligence agency investigations) or an independent surveillance commissioner (for law enforcement agencies). All surveillance commissioners are required under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 to hold or to have held high judicial office.

Telephone Tapping

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Scotland on the number of *(a)* people in Scotland and *(b)* hon. Members representing Scottish constituencies identified by the recent Metropolitan Police Service investigation as having been affected by recent telephone hacking incidents. [17230]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 13 October 2010]:* We have had no such discussions. Information about the numbers and identities of individuals who may have been affected by the telephone hacking allegations which were the subject of recent parliamentary debates is a matter for the Metropolitan Police.

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will publish each item of correspondence *(a)* sent and *(b)* received by Ministers in her Department in respect of the Metropolitan Police Service's investigation into telephone hacking and blagging since her appointment. [17466]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 14 October 2010]:* We have received a small number of letters from members of the public on the subject of telephone hacking. Letters from members of the public are treated in confidence and it would be inappropriate to publish such correspondence. In addition, the hon. Gentleman wrote to the Deputy Prime Minister on 2 September and I replied to that correspondence on 8 September. I would of course be happy for the hon. Gentleman to publish that correspondence.

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether Ministers and officials in her Department have had discussions with the Metropolitan Police Service on its investigation into telephone hacking and blagging since her appointment. [17467]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 14 October 2010]:* Ministers and officials in the Home Office have regular discussions with the Metropolitan police on a wide range of issues. These have included discussions on the status of recent Metropolitan police enquiries about phone hacking allegations made in the media in September 2010.

Terrorism

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will undertake research on the level of understanding of the terrorism threat level by *(a)* the general public and *(b)* staff of central Government departments. [14097]

Nick Herbert: The Government Research, Intelligence and Communications Unit (RICU) has undertaken research into the public' understanding of communications about a range of counter-terrorism policies and issues. The data from this research is currently being compiled.

Previously Home Office commissioned public polling 'Omnibus Questions for Crime Tracker November 2009' includes a section on the public's perception of the level of the terrorist threat. It is available at:

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20100418065544/http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/mori-polls-2009/quarterly-tracker-november-20092835.pdf?view=Binary

The Government do not intend to undertake research on the level of understanding of the terrorism threat level by staff in central Government Departments.

Yarl's Wood Detention Centre: Children

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the safety and well-being of children being held at Yarl's Wood detention centre; and what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Education on the detention of children. [17437]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency takes very seriously the health and well-being of those in its care. This is particularly true in respect of the small number of children who are detained with their parents for a short period of time immediately prior to their removal after they refuse to leave the UK voluntarily or while checks are being made at the border to ascertain whether they and the adults accompanying them should be admitted to the country.

Safeguarding procedures in respect of children are kept under constant review across the immigration removal estate to ensure that they are consistent with section 55 of the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009 which requires the agency to carry out its functions having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in the UK. Prior to detaining an individual family, the agency considers medical and welfare needs to assess the appropriateness of detention and any particular support which may need to be put in place for the child. On arrival in Yarl's Wood, on-site social workers from Bedford borough council make their own assessment and monitor the child during the period of detention.

The Government have made clear their commitment to ending the detention of children for immigration purposes. We are currently conducting a review to consider how this can be done in a way which protects the welfare of children while ensuring the return of families who have no right to be in the UK. The Department for Education, as the lead Department for children, families and safeguarding is closely involved with the review.

We have already announced that the family unit at Yarl's Wood will be closed as soon as we have identified a credible alternative way of ensuring the departure of families who do not wish to go voluntarily, despite being given every opportunity to do so.

JUSTICE

Corruption: Legislation

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 26 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 686W, on corruption: legislation, if he will place in the Library a copy of each of the written representations on the implementation of the Bribery Act 2010 referred to in the answer. [17637]

Mr Blunt: I have placed copies in the Library together with copies of our replies.

Corruption: Public Service

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 22 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 460W, on corruption: public service, when he plans to place in the Library the agendas and minutes of the meetings of the Foreign Bribery Strategy Board. [17636]

Mr Blunt: The agendas and minutes of each of the five meetings of the Foreign Bribery Strategy Board have now been placed in the Library, where they do not meet the exemptions set out in the Freedom of Information Act under section 31 (law enforcement) or section 35 (formulation of government policy). The information has been provided by BIS in their former role as Secretariat support to the International Anti-Corruption Champion.

County Courts : Public Transport

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the contribution of the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State of 27 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 208WH, what estimate he has made of the maximum reasonable travel time required to travel by public transport to a county court. [17731]

Mr Djanogly: People should not have to make excessively long or difficult journeys to attend court. However, we must recognise the infrequency with which most people need to visit a court, compared to other public services which they use and travel to more regularly such as banks, schools, supermarkets or hospitals. We must also consider that the majority of people have their own transportation so may not need to use public transport.

I believe it is reasonable that our court estate enables the majority of people to be within an hour's journey of their nearest court using public transport. I do however acknowledge that for some smaller communities there may be very little or no public transport, which may mean journeys are longer than an hour. For those court users who have particular transport difficulties, courts will try to list those cases at a time to accommodate this. This practice is well established in courts and relies only on the person notifying the court office of their specific circumstances.

Courts: Expenditure

Mr Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the likely *(a)* additional expenditure incurred by or *(b)* savings to HM Courts Service in implementing the results of its review of court services in providing for (i) paid and (ii) unpaid personnel (A) to travel to a new place of work and (B) to stay at their present place of work. [17949]

Mr Djanogly: On 23 June 2010 the Justice Secretary announced, via written ministerial statement, a consultation on the future provision of court services across England and Wales. The consultation closed on 15 September and the Government aim to publish its response by the end of the year.

The impacts, costs and benefits of court closures will be outlined within the full impact assessment that will be published alongside the consultation responses.

Mr Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the likely *(a)* costs of and *(b)* savings in expenditure on maintenance arising from the retention in the HM Courts Service estate of magistrates' courts not proposed for closure as part of his Department's review. [17950]

Mr Djanogly: Her Majesty's Courts Service is committed to ensuring that there is an efficient and effective estate portfolio to administer the justice system. The impact of potential changes in costs and expenditure on the maintenance of the HMCS estate cannot be confirmed until the announcement of the outcome of the spending review and the outcomes of the court estate consultation process.

The existing maintenance backlog associated with the magistrates court buildings included in the consultation proposals is around £22 million. If the decision were taken to close all of these courts, then these costs would be avoided. The Government aim to issue the response to the consultation by the end of the year.

Courts: Fines

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much on average was collected in fines by HM Courts Service Fixed Penalty Office in Denbigh *(a)* weekly, *(b)* monthly and *(c)* annually in each of the last five years. [17000]

Mr Blunt: The separate identification of fines collected by Fixed Penalty Offices, and specific information on fixed penalties registered as fines, is not collected centrally by HM Courts Service.

Furthermore, information is not available on the number of individual of fines paid. Therefore we are unable to calculate how much on average was collected in fines in the last five years.

However, information is available for the total amount collected in financial penalties which includes total fines, costs, victim surcharge and compensation collected, as well as fixed penalties registered as fines at magistrates' courts. This data is not available on a weekly basis.

Figures for actual total fines paid for the North Wales HM Court Service area are provided; *(b)* monthly and *(c)* annually as shown in the following table.

Magistrates courts: Enforcement of financial penalties in the magistrates courts, North Wales HM Court Service area, January 2005 to December 2009

	Month	*Amount paid (£)*
2005	—	3.544.394
2006	—	3,944,047
2007	—	3,618,164
2008	—	3,418,049
2009	—	3.281.928
2005	January	372,705
2005	February	243,686
2005	March	302,714
2005	April	268,562
2005	May	273,418
2005	June	375,579
2005	July	229,072
2005	August	170,965
2005	September	374,841
2005	October	312,809
2005	November	289,128
2005	December	330,914
2006	January	315,147
2006	February	294,521
2006	March	395,570
2006	April	416,526
2006	May	414,772
2006	June	332,064
2006	July	317,979
2006	August	359,616
2006	September	269,719
2006	October	300,667
2006	November	293,443
2006	December	234,025
2007	January	281,717
2007	February	307,249
2007	March	271,900
2007	April	269,279
2007	May	310,938
2007	June	305,708
2007	July	333,272
2007	August	304.959
2007	September	248.756
2007	October	323.813
2007	November	423,148
2007	December	237,426
2008	January	341,640
2008	February	277,75
2008	March	245,145
2008	April	330,683
2008	May	319,160
2008	June	322,831
2008	July	289,754
2008	August	320,007
2008	September	248,648
2008	October	288,696
2008	November	242,935
2008	December	191,375
2009	January	186,449
2009	February	206,884
2009	March	349,653
2009	April	252,674
2009	May	231,505
2009	June	278,729
2009	July	260,088
2009	August	231,509
2009	September	304,993
2009	October	337,630
2009	November	348,617
2009	December	293,197

Notes:

1 Magistrates courts submit information on the enforcement of financial penalties using the Debt Analysis Return.
2 The amount paid represents the amount of financial penalties collected by the courts in the given month.
3 HMCS does not collect the number of fines paid or the average fines centrally.
4 Financial penalties data is collected at a local criminal justice boards level.
5 Financial penalties include total fines, costs, victim surcharge and compensation collected in the timeframe stated (fixed penalties registered as a fine will be included).
6 Fixed penalty fines cannot be separately identified.
7 Annual figures may not sum to monthly equivalents due to rounding.

Source:

Debt Analysts Return (DAR), HM Courts Service Performance Database

Criminal Proceedings: Legal Aid

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) whether his Department ring-fences the criminal legal aid budget; [16833]

(2) what the cost to the public purse was of *(a)* civil and *(b)* criminal legal aid in (i) 2007-08, (ii) 2008-09 and (iii) 2009-10. [16834]

Mr Djanogly: Expenditure on criminal legal aid is not ring-fenced but is met from the Ministry's overall departmental expenditure limit. Net cash expenditure on civil and criminal legal aid for the past three years is shown in the following table.

£ million

	2007-08	*2008-09*	*2009-10*[1]
Community Legal Service (CLS)	844	913	941
Criminal Defence Service (CDS)	1,179	1,187	1,205
Total	2,023	2,100	2,146

[1] Figures for 2009-10 are estimates. The final position will be reported when the LSC annual report and accounts are published.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he has made an estimate of the change in the level of carbon dioxide emissions from his Department since May 2010; and what steps he plans to take to meet his Department's target of reducing such emissions by 10 per cent. by May 2011. [16814]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice's: change in the level of carbon dioxide it has emitted since May 2010 together with the steps the Ministry of Justice plans to take to meet its target of reducing such emissions by 10% by May 2011 have been published on the internet and can be found at:

http://data.gov.uk/departmental-performance-co2-emissions-reduction-date

The document 'Scope of 10% Carbon Dioxide emissions reduction commitment' (pages 4, 5 and 14) available through the above link refers.

Departmental Legislation

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many statutory duties were placed on local authorities by legislation introduced by his Department in each year since its inception; and if he will make a statement. [17022]

Mr Djanogly: The Government are committed to reducing top down burdens on local authorities from legislation, guidance and other forms of prescription.

The Ministry of Justice does not currently hold a central record of the information requested. Collating the information would require a comprehensive review of all legislation, both primary and secondary, enacted by the Department since May 2007 and therefore cannot be provided except at a disproportionate cost.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* officials of his Department and *(b)* external advisers are working on his Department's consultation on the provision of magistrates' and county court services. [16558]

Mr Djanogly: On 23 June 2010 the Justice Secretary announced, via written ministerial statement, a consultation on the future provision of court services across England and Wales. The consultation closed on 15 September and the Government aim to publish their response by the end of the year.

A core team is working on the consultation process. This is currently a team of eight, which has been formulated from existing resources within Her Majesty's Courts Service and the Ministry of Justice. The team has been supported by other officials across the Ministry of Justice and Her Majesty's Courts Service as part of their other duties.

There are no external advisors working on the consultation on court services. We have procured services to conduct travel time analysis and for some small scale social research on the public's use of courts.

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many officials his Department has appointed on fixed-term contracts since 7 May 2010. [16796]

Mr Djanogly: Between 6 May to 30 June 2010 (the date of the latest published data) 211 civil servants who were appointed to the Ministry of Justice (including the National Offender Management Service) were on fixed term contracts.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to recruit staff to Senior Civil Service posts in the next 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [17361]

Mr Djanogly: Future work force plans for the Ministry will be reassessed in light of the outcome of the forthcoming Spending Review settlement. For any future recruitment, at the senior civil service level or otherwise, the Ministry will continue to comply with the restrictions on recruitment announced by the Government on 25 May 2010.

Expert Evidence: Legal Aid

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice in respect of how many expert witnesses costs were paid from *(a)* civil and *(b)* criminal legal aid budgets in (i) 2007-08, (ii) 2008-09 and (iii) 2009-10. [16836]

Mr Djanogly: The Legal Services Commission does not record centrally the costs paid to expert witnesses in legally aided cases. As this information is not readily available it could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Immigration

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on how many occasions the Tribunals Service has received requests from the UK Border Agency to re-send appeal determination notifications from the First-tier Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum Chamber) and its predecessors in the last 12 months. [16780]

Mr Djanogly: The First Tier Tribunal—Immigration and Asylum Chamber does not hold the information which my hon. Friend requested.

Judges: Public Appointments

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* Crown Court, *(b)* county court, *(c)* High Court and *(d)* Supreme Court judges were appointed in each of the last three years; what the cost to the public purse was of making such appointments to each court in each such year; and if he will make a statement. [17360]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The following table shows the number of appointments made by type of judge in the last three financial years—information is collated in this way rather than by type of court.

Costings are not collected routinely in the way requested. However, estimated MOJ staffing costs for those appointments totalled £523,343 in 2007-08, £566,114 in 2008-09 and £580,596 in 2009-10. The Judicial Appointments Commission similarly cannot break down the costs of these particular appointments but they received grant in aid funding of £7.13 million in 2007-08, £8.15 million in 2008-09 and £7.61 million in 2009-10.

Appointment type	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Circuit Judge	59	42	75
Recorder	6	75	191
District Judge	23	25	20
Deputy District Judge	40	19	1
High Court Judge	15	14	7
Justice of the Supreme Court	[1]—	[1]—	3
Totals	143	175	297

[1] Not created until 1 October 2009

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* Crown Court, *(b)* county court, *(c)* High Court and *(d)* Supreme Court judges he expects to be appointed in the next 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [17380]

Mr Djanogly: Judicial appointments in the Crown court and county courts will be made from existing and future appointment lists of selected candidates depending upon the needs that arise. Plans to create future lists will be established once allocations for Her Majesty's Courts Service are finalised following the forthcoming spending review. It is currently anticipated that there will be two judicial appointments at High Court level and one in the Court of Appeal which are likely to be filled within the next 12 months. A competition has recently been launched to fill two vacancies in the Supreme Court.

Legal Aid

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were granted *(a)* civil and *(b)* criminal legal aid in (i) 2007-08, (ii) 2008-09 and (iii) 2009-10. [16835]

Mr Djanogly: The Legal Services Commission (LSC) does not record the number of people who receive legal aid instead it records the number of 'acts of assistance'. One individual may receive a number of separate acts of assistance, and one act of assistance can help more than one person.

The LSC's figures acts of assistance for civil legal aid and criminal legal aid over the past three years are shown in the following table.

Million

	Civil legal aid acts of assistance	*Criminal legal aid acts of assistance*
2007-08	1.15	1.50
2008-09	1.31	1.55
2009-10[1]	1.43	1.53

[1] Figures for 2009-10 are estimated. The final position will be reported when the LSC Annual Report and Accounts are published.

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many legal practices in *(a)* Houghton and Sunderland South constituency and *(b)* Sunderland local authority area are to be awarded contracts to provide family legal aid services from November 2010. [17096]

Mr Djanogly: Following the legal proceedings by The Law Society in respect of the Legal Services Commission's (LSC) tender for family services judgment was handed down on 30 September in favour of the Law Society. The effect of this was to quash the family tender.

The LSC is currently considering the detail of the judgment and its implications, including its grounds for appeal. In light of the judgment, details of awards in the Family Category of Law are not currently available.

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether provisions exist under the terms of the 2007 Unified Civil Contract for legal aid services for the extension of the contract; and whether his Department has made provision for financial redress to those affected by extension beyond the terms specified in the contract. [17940]

Mr Djanogly: The Legal Services Commission (LSC) is the non- departmental public body with responsibility for the administration of the legal aid fund and the tender process and award of legal aid contracts are operational matters for the LSC.

As stated in my written answer of 11 October, the first one-month extension of the Unified Contract (Civil) was implemented by the LSC in accordance with the contract's standard terms and following consultation with the representative bodies. The latest extension (to 15 December) was made in response to the judgment in *R (On the application of Law Society of England and Wales) v Legal Services Commission* [2010] All ER (D) 01 (Oct), again in accordance with the contact standard terms and following consultation with the representative bodies. In the circumstances, no question of compensation arises.

Legal Aid: Contracts

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many local providers of legal aid services have received contracts from the Legal Services Commission under the 2010 tendering process. [17238]

Mr Djanogly: Legal aid contracts for crime services commenced on 14 July 2010. Following the 2010 tender process for this work, 1,740 contracts were let across England and Wales.

Following the legal proceedings by the Law Society in respect of the Legal Services Commission's (LSC) tender for family services judgment was handed down on 30 September in favour of the Law Society. The effect of this was to quash the family tender.

The LSC is currently considering the detail of the judgment and its implications, including its grounds for appeal. In light of the judgment, details of awards in the Family Category of Law are not currently available. For civil non-family work existing contracts have been extended to 15 November. The tender exercise will conclude following the finalisation of the current appeals process and the pre-contract verification exercise. Once concluded, the LSC intends to publish the outcome of the tender process on its website at:

www.legalservices.gov.uk

Legal Services Commission: Contracts

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many contracts to practise *(a)* family, *(b)* social welfare and *(c)* criminal law were awarded by the Legal Services Commission in each year since 2005; [16888]

(2) how many local providers of legal aid services received contracts from the Legal Services Commission in each year since 2005. [16889]

Mr Djanogly: Figures for the number of solicitor offices in England and Wales providing legal aid services in each year since 2005 are available and are shown in the following table. Prior to the introduction of the civil unified contract in April 2007 and criminal unified contract in July 2008, legal aid providers delivering services in more than one office would hold separate contracts for each of those offices. In addition, where providers have decided not to continue providing civil legal aid services, they may nevertheless still have an account or accounts with the Legal Services Commission while they continue to deal with their remaining clients.

	Civil	*Criminal*
2005	4,430	2,643
2006	4,101	2,608
2007	3,895	2,510
2008	3,627	2,230
2009	3,585	2,245
2010[1]	3,206	2,137

[1] 2009-10 figures are unaudited. The final position will be reported in the LSC's annual report and accounts 2009-10 which will be reported later in the year.

The breakdown in civil legal aid is shown in the following table.

	Not for Profit	*Solicitors*
2005	441	3,989
2006	469	3,632
2007	458	3,437
2008	n/a	n/a
2009	360	2,253
2010[1]	404	2,802

n/a = Information not available in the annual report.

[1] 2009-10 figures are unaudited. The final position will be reported in the LSC's annual report and accounts 2009-10 which will be reported later in the year.

Magistrates Courts

James Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has for the disposal of buildings used by magistrates' courts which are to close under his proposals on the provision of court services; and if he will make a statement. [16753]

Mr Djanogly: As no decision has yet been taken on closing any court, it would be inappropriate to pre-empt that by undertaking detailed disposal assessments. These will be created following decisions on closures.

Treatment of capital receipts will form part of the Ministry of Justice settlement from the 2010 spending review. Tide outcome of the review will determine how the disposal programme will proceed.

Magistrates: Public Appointments

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has for the appointment of magistrates in the next 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [17415]

Mr Djanogly: The need to recruit new magistrates is determined annually by local Advisory Committees on Justices of the Peace. The committees take into account projected retirements, resignations, average sitting days, work load and the use of district judges (magistrates courts). No digest of these decisions is created in the Ministry of Justice so there is not a national picture of planned magistrate recruitment available for the financial year 2011-12.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many magistrates were appointed in each of the last three years. [17416]

Mr Djanogly: In each of the last three financial years, the following number of magistrates were appointed.

	Number of magistrates appointed
2007-08	1,899
2008-09	1,773
2009-10	1,632

Prisoners

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance his Department issues on the recommended minimum ratio of prisoners to prison officers on duty at any one time. [17762]

Mr Blunt: Minimum staffing levels are set by governors. No central guidance has been issued to governors on a minimum ratio of prisoners to prison officers across the prison as a whole. The Specification, Benchmarking and Costing programme is producing non-mandatory operating models for services operated in prisons, which can include potential staffing models. Governors may use these operating models to inform their decisions about staffing. The programme publishes a full list of the prison and probation services to be covered by the programme, which has been placed in the Library of the House.

Prisons: Drugs

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent discussions he has had with Ministerial colleagues on drug addiction services in prisons. [17932]

Mr Blunt: I have had discussions with Ministers in a number of Departments including the Department of Health, Home Office and the Cabinet Office. These have covered a range of drugs related topics, including reforming drug addiction services in prisons.

Probation Service: Manpower

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what recent assessment he has made of the potential effects on *(a)* staff headcount and *(b)* prisoners in Northumbria of Probation Service expenditure reductions of (i) 10, (ii) 20 and (iii) 30 per cent; [17576]

(2) what assessment he has made of the potential effects on prisoner numbers in Northumbria of Probation Service expenditure reductions of *(a)* 10, *(b)* 20 and *(c)* 30 per cent; [17578]

(3) what recent assessment he has made of the potential effects on the *(a)* caseload of Northumbria Probation Service and *(b)* provision by that service of (i) court reports and (ii) supervision of people on parole licences of Probation Service expenditure reductions of (A) 10, (B) 20 and (C) 30 per cent. [17593]

Mr Blunt: To reduce the budget deficit, the Government are examining all areas of public expenditure, including the criminal justice system, to see where savings can be made. The Ministry of Justice is discussing options with the Treasury; the outcome of the spending review will be announced on 20 October. Following the announcement, the Ministry of Justice will decide how funding is to be allocated. We will work with probation trusts to ensure that they are able to provide the reports requested by the courts and to supervise offenders sentenced to community orders or on release from custody, in accordance with sentencing guidelines.

Work to protect the public and to reduce reoffending is a key priority. All probation trusts should ensure that savings are achieved by streamlining administration and improving working practices. Funding should be focused on front line services, to protect the public and reduce reoffending.

Rape: Victim Support Schemes

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what long-term funding he plans to make available to *(a)* existing and *(b)* new rape crisis centres; and if he will make a statement. [17174]

Mr Blunt: Decisions on funding for 2011-12 will be made following the comprehensive spending review.

Regulation of Investigation Powers Act 2000

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many convictions there have been under section 1 of the Regulation of Investigation Powers Act 2000 on the unlawful interception of telephone communications since the implementation of that provision. [17343]

Mr Blunt: The number of defendants found guilty at all courts in England and Wales for the years 2000 to 2008 (latest available), for offences under section 1 of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000, for the offence of unlawful interception of a postal public or private telecommunication scheme, is shown in the table.

The regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 came into force on 28 July 2000.

Court proceedings data for 2009 are planned for publication on 21 October 2010.

Number of defendants found guilty[1,2] at all courts for offences under Section 1(1)(2)(7) of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000, England and Wales 2000 to 2008[3,4,5,6]

	Offence code 9956
	Found guilty
2000[3,4]	—
2001	—
2002	1
2003	3
2004	4
2005	1
2006	—
2007	—
2008[6]	—

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Staffordshire Police Force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.

[4] The Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 came into force on 28 July 2000 source:
www.statutelaw.gov.uk

[5] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

[6] The following corresponding offence description is used:
Unlawful interception of a postal public or private telecommunication scheme.

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Reoffenders

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the re-offending rate was, expressed in terms of number of *(a)* offences per 100 offenders, *(b)* offences per 100 re-offenders and *(c)* severe offences per 100 offenders, for male offenders with each number of previous offences subject to (i) court orders, (ii) custodial sentences of any length, (iii) custodial sentences of 12 months or less for each (A) group and (B) type of offence in 2008. [17469]

Mr Blunt: The data provided shows the one year reoffending rates for adult males discharged from custody or commencing a court order between January and March of 2008.

Table 1, which has been placed in the Library, provides *(a)* offences per 100 offenders, *(b)* offences per 100 reoffenders and *(c)* severe offences per 100 offenders, for male offenders with each number of previous offences subject to (i) court orders and (ii) custodial sentences of any length for each group of offence for 2008.

Table 2, which has also been placed in the Library, provides *(a)* offences per 100 offenders, *(b)* offences per 100 reoffenders and *(c)* severe offences per 100 offenders, for male offenders with each number of previous offences subject to (iii) custodial sentences of 12 months or less for each group of offence for 2008.

Reoffending rates by disposal should not be compared to assess the effectiveness of sentences, as there is no control for known differences in offender characteristics. While the data for offenders commencing court orders shows lower reoffending rates than offenders discharged from prison, it is important to note that offenders sentenced to prison have on average a higher probability of reoffending based on their previous criminal history.

More information on the reoffending rates is available from the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/reoffendingofadults.htm

Reparation By Offenders

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what restorative justice pilot schemes his Department *(a)* is operating and *(b)* has recently completed. [17933]

Mr Blunt: Pre-sentence restorative justice for adults was trialled as part of Government commissioned Crime Reduction Programme Restorative Justice Pilots, which ran between 2001 and 2004.

We have piloted the Youth Restorative Disposal that allows police officers to resolve minor first-time offences by young people using restorative techniques. The pilot is being independently evaluated and will be considered as part of our comprehensive review of sentencing and rehabilitation.

Squatting: Crime

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will bring forward proposals to make squatting a criminal offence. [17439]

Mr Blunt: We are considering whether the law in relation to squatting in residential premises should be strengthened and whether there are any enforcement issues.

Any change to the law would need to be considered against other commitments in the coalition agreement.

TREASURY

Child Benefit

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what evidence he took into account in formulating his policy on the reform of child benefit. [16821]

Mr Gauke: The Government consider a wide range of factors when formulating policy and will set out further information on the announcement to withdraw child benefit from higher rate taxpayers at the spending review.

Child Trust Fund: Children in Care

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many looked after and accommodated children in each *(a)* parliamentary constituency and *(b)* local authority in Scotland received payments from a child trust fund in each year since such funds were established; [17062]

(2) what recent representations he has received from children's organisations on the ending of child trust funds for looked after and accommodated children; [17064]

(3) how much the Government has spent on Child Trust Funds for looked after and accommodated children in each year since the inception of that scheme. [17524]

Mr Hoban: Statistical information about Child Trust Funds is published on HM Revenue and Customs' website at

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/ctf/stats.htm

This shows that at 5 April 2009 the total number of children who have been reported as being in local authority care and for whom a child trust fund has been opened is 33,158. Information on Child Trust Funds for looked after and accommodated children is not available at parliamentary constituency or local authority level.

Information is not available on the precise amount of payments made by HM Revenue and Customs to the Child Trust Fund accounts of looked after children. Some of these children will have received the special government payment of £500 for looked after children (reduced to £100 from August 2010). Others will already have had a Child Trust Fund before they entered local authority care and will have been subject to the normal government payments into their Child Trust Funds.

The Department for Education (formerly the Department for Children, Schools and Families) has provided the following amounts to local authorities in England, and to the devolved assemblies, to fund extra annual £100 top up payments for looked after children:

	£
2008-09	1,039,833
2009-10	1,502,786

The Government have announced that, to help reduce Britain's budget deficit, it will end eligibility for Child Trust Funds from January 2011, and therefore stop all government payments. We have not received any recent representations from children's organisations about the ending of Child Trust Funds for looked after and accommodated children.

Civil Servants: Pensions

John Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has made an estimate of the effect of the implementation of his proposal that public service pension schemes be increased in line with the consumer price index in 2010-11 prices over the course of retirement on the pension of an active member of the Classic section of the Civil Service Pension Scheme aged 40 years who will draw his pension at 60 years after 40 years' service in the scheme with earnings of *(a)* £15,000, *(b)* £20,000, *(c)* £30,000 and *(d)* £40,000 per annum. [16646]

Danny Alexander: The Government have not estimated the effect of indexing based on the consumer prices index (CPI) instead of the retail price index (RPI) over the course of retirement for specific groups in the public service pension schemes. However, the overall estimated savings in annually managed expenditure for public service pension expenditure were made available in answers to the right hon. Member for Stirling (Mrs McGuire) on 27 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 991W.

The table shows the likely change in cash terms for each financial year from 2011 -12 to 2016-17 for public service pensioners as requested. It is based on the OBR forecasts for CPI and RPI to 2016-17.

	2011-12	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*	*2015-16*	*2016-17*
RPI (%)	4.2	3.4	3.0	3.2	3.4	3.5
CPI (%)	2.8	2.6	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.0
£2,500						
RPI (£)	2,605	2,694	2,774	2,863	2,961	3,064
CPI (£)	2,570	2,673	2,745	2,830	2,920	3,020
£5,000						
RPI (£)	5,210	5,387	5,549	5,726	5,921	6,128
CPI (£)	5,140	5,345	5,489	5,660	5,841	6,039
£10,000						
RPI (£)	10,420	10,774	11,098	11,453	11,842	12,256
CPI (£)	10,280	10,691	10,979	11,319	11,682	12,079
£20,000						
RPI (£)	20,840	21,549	22,195	22,905	23,684	24,513
CPI (£)	20,560	21,382	21,958	22,639	23,363	24,158

Individual public service pension schemes are the responsibility of the relevant administering departments and in the case of the civil service pension scheme this would be the Cabinet Office.

Corporation Tax: Redcar

Ian Swales: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of companies that will be affected by the reduction in small profits rate of corporation tax from April 2011 in Redcar constituency. [16540]

Mr Gauke: No estimate is available for the number of companies that will be affected by the reduction in small profits rate of corporation tax in Redcar constituency.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has made an estimate of the change in the level of carbon dioxide emissions from his Department since May 2010; and what steps he plans to take to meet his Department's target of reducing such emissions by 10% by May 2011. [16818]

Justine Greening: At the time of the Prime Minister's announcement in May 2010 an HM Treasury (HMT) assessment concluded that it would be possible to meet its target over the full period.

Between May and August 2010, HMT's emissions reduced by 4.2%, from 312 tonnes of CO_2 to 299 tonnes.

The latest data on carbon reduction is available online at:

http://data.gov.uk/departmental-performance-co2-emissions-reduction-date

Departmental ICT

Graham Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies has spent on information and communication technology in each year since 1997. [7328]

Justine Greening: Spending on information and communication technology equipment and services is shown in the following table:

£ million

	HM Treasury (HMT)	*Debt Management Office (DMO)*	*Asset Protection Agency (APA)*
2002-03	n/a	1.7	n/a

£ million

	HM Treasury (HMT)	*Debt Management Office (DMO)*	*Asset Protection Agency (APA)*
2003-04	n/a	1.3	n/a
2004-05	6.3	1.6	n/a
2005-06	7.0	1.8	n/a
2006-07	7.4	2.0	n/a
2007-08	13.9	2.5	n/a
2008-09	9.8	2.0	n/a
2009-10	16.2	2.2	2.9

In 2007-08 and 2008-09 HMT implemented a programme to relocate the Office of Government Commerce and create a shared IT service for both organisations. In 2009-10 HMT began a programme of investment to update the Treasury Group's IT infrastructure, to improve its resilience and reliability and modernise its services to deliver improved management of information, as well as better collaborative tools and communications.

Data for HMT prior to 2004-05 and for DMO prior to 2002-03 are not available due to the introduction of a new accounting system.

The APA was established in December 2009.

The Royal Mint Advisory Committee has not incurred any spending on information and communications technology.

Spending Challenge Programme

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of establishing and operating the Spending Challenge programme. [16573]

Danny Alexander: The Government committed to ensuring this spending review process was open, responsible and fair and to engaging the whole public in the difficult decisions that have to be taken. The Spending Challenge was an important part of this, attracting over 100,000 suggestions from public sector workers and members of the public on how Government can do more with less.

The cost of establishing and operating the Spending Challenge website was £19,300. Related staff and process costs were met using existing resources and from existing budgets.

The Chancellor has already announced three ideas submitted to the Spending Challenge by members of the public and public sector workers will be implemented as policy by the Government.

These ideas are *(a)* to reduce the number of CRB checks for Junior Doctors, by taking a more common-sense approach across the NHS, so that junior doctors are not checked repeatedly over a short space of time, saving up to £1 million a year; *(b)* to distribute National Insurance numbers to people with a letter rather than a plastic card, also saving up to £1 million; and *(c)* to increase the selling of surplus and second hand Government equipment by expanding the use of the Ministry of Defence's eDisposals service for use across all Government departments.

The Government will continue to highlight where ideas submitted by the public have been taken into account when the results of the Spending Review are announced on 20 October.

Departmental Manpower

Kate Green: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many full-time equivalent staff of his Department were engaged in reducing tax avoidance and evasion in each of the last five years. [16634]

Mr Gauke: HM Revenue and Customs deploy compliance officers on a wide range of compliance activities including risk assessment, addressing inaccurate returns and verifying repayment claims, debt collection and criminal investigations across all heads of duty. HMRC have specialist teams to deal with avoidance and evasion once it has been identified and referred to them for a response. These are Civil Investigation of Fraud (CIF), Specialist Investigations (SI) and Anti-Avoidance Group (AAG). For most interventions avoidance and evasion are likely to be finally identified, and escalated as necessary, once an intervention has begun, so it is not possible to identify how many compliance officers we have working solely on the responses to these behaviours. The number of compliance officers deployed by HMRC over the last five years was:

	FTE compliance officer
2005-06	39,000
2006-07	37,000
2007-08	34,500
2008-09	32,000
2009-10	31,000

Departmental Private Finance Initiative

Stephen McPartland: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what projects under the private finance initiative are being undertaken in Stevenage constituency; and what the monetary value is of each such contract. [17902]

Danny Alexander: A list of operational and in procurement PFI projects can be found on HM Treasury's website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/ppp_pfi_stats.htm

For each PFI project, this list details the project name, the capital value, the constituency, the procuring authority and whether it is on or off balance sheet; as used by the ONS in calculating public sector net debt.

EU External Trade: Israel

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer to the then hon. Member for Milton Keynes South West of 18 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 1022W, on EU external trade: Israel, how many *(a)* cosmetic companies and *(b)* importers were targeted for checks; what the nature of the checks was; what documentation was required and from whom; whether the investigations have been completed; and whether any mislabelling has been detected. [16675]

Mr Gauke: For reasons of commercial confidentiality HMRC is unable to say how many cosmetic companies and importers were targeted for checks. However, it has undertaken checks in respect of a range of cosmetic products imported from Israel. So far, two duty demands have been issued in 2010 where the accompanying proof of preferential origin showed that the goods were produced in a settlement. HMRC will continue to make regular checks on imports from Israel which receive preference under the EU-Israel agreement. However, the majority of cosmetic products attract a free rate of customs duty outside of any preferential tariff arrangement.

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the contribution of the former Exchequer Secretary on 27 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 320WH, whether he has yet received a copy of the reports of the fact-finding mission of the European Commission to Israel and Palestine in 2009. [16676]

Mr Gauke: HMRC has not received copies of reports of the fact finding missions to Israel and Palestine in 2009. However, it understands that in April 2010 the EU Commission provided an EU Council Working Group with a brief oral report of its findings in which it concluded that the 2005 Technical Arrangement is working satisfactorily.

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer to the then hon. Member for Milton Keynes South West of 18 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 1022W, on EU external trade: Israel, what progress HM Revenue and Customs has made in checking exports made under the EU-Israel Agreement from settlement companies listed in the 2009 research paper prepared by the University of London's School of Oriental and African Studies. [16683]

Mr Gauke: HMRC has examined customs import declarations from all companies mentioned in the research paper. There were no imports from a number of the companies. For some of the companies that did export goods to the UK, the proofs of preferential origin covering goods indicated that the goods were produced in Israel. HMRC is returning the proofs concerned to the Israeli authorities for verification of the origin of the goods. HMRC has already issued duty demands for goods imported from four of the companies in the paper whose goods have been established as originating in a settlements location.

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer to the then hon. Member for Milton Keynes South West of 10 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 676W, on Israel: EU external trade, whether the consignment with commodity code 34013000 is still under investigation; and whether HM Revenue and Customs has received confirmation of its place of production. [16684]

Mr Gauke: Goods covered by commodity code 34013000 are under investigation. HMRC asked the Israeli authorities in September 2010 to verify the origin of three consignments of the products concerned. A response is awaited.

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the contribution of the former Exchequer Secretary of 27 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 321WH, how many importers have been issued a financial penalty since the entry into force of the new civil penalty provision for persistent claims of preference outside entitlements; what guidance has been issued on the frequency of false preference claims outside entitlements which constitute persistent submission; whether HM Revenue and Customs is recording the false declarations made by each importer which they have detected; and what the policy of HM Revenue and Customs is on checking the imports of importers who have previously made claims outside preference entitlements. [16685]

Mr Gauke: HMRC has published on its website a schedule, taken from the Customs (Contravention of a relevant rule) (Amendment) Regulations 2009, of those situations in which an importer may incur a financial penalty. It supplements the guidance in HMRC Notice 301 on civil penalties in the customs area.

HMRC also keeps records of false declarations made by importers in respect of the preferential origin of goods. It is HMRC's policy to regularly examine the customs import entries of those importers who have previously made invalid declarations. Demands are issued for the full rate of customs duty, where appropriate.

HMRC is unable to extract specific information in respect of the number of warning letters and penalty notices issued in respect of the new penalty provision, which came into force in December 2009 for the persistent presentation of invalid proofs of preferential origin.

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the contribution of the former Exchequer Secretary of 27 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 320WH, which supermarkets HM Revenue and Customs has contacted to explore potential discrepancies between settlement origin identified by the supermarket's internal tracking system and the customs imports declaration. [16686]

Mr Gauke: For reasons of commercial confidentiality, HMRC cannot disclose its dealings with specific UK companies. However, it continues to experience traceability problems as a result of intermediaries rather than supermarkets being shown as importers on customs import declarations. HMRC therefore supports the work of DEFRA in encouraging supermarkets, under voluntary labelling arrangements, to ensure that their suppliers correctly mark the origin of the produce originating in the settlements. This will help HMRC to identify such products at the time of importation.

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the contribution of the former Exchequer Secretary of 27 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 321WH, what changes HM Revenue and Customs plans to make to the 2005 technical arrangements to ensure compliance with the rules on claims for preference. [16687]

Mr Gauke: The 2005 Technical Arrangement was concluded in the EU-Israel Customs Co-operation Committee by the EU Commission acting on behalf of the European Union as a whole. Consequently, the UK cannot take unilateral action to amend its terms. However, HMRC will continue to immediately refuse, under the arrangement, claims to Israeli tariff preference where a settlements location is shown on the accompanying proof of origin. It will also continue to return proofs to the Israeli authorities for verification where it has doubts about the origin of the goods concerned.

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the contribution of the former Exchequer Secretary of 27 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 320WH, what steps the European Commission has taken in response to the HM Revenue and Customs request for correct compliance by the Israeli authorities in respect of the precise place of production on the proof of preferential origin. [16688]

Mr Gauke: The European Commission continues to monitor the correct operation by Israel of the 2005 Technical Arrangement. It periodically asks member states for information and concerns in respect of the operation of the arrangement. In the last year only the UK has raised concerns about the possibility that the place of production shown on the proof of origin is simply a head office or distribution centre in Israel, and that the goods concerned may have in fact originated in a settlement. HMRC does not have any information about the Commission's current plans for any bilateral contacts with the Israeli authorities.

EU Grants and Loans

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 6 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 195W, on the European Investment Bank, to which entities the European Investment Bank has provided over £1 million since it was established; and in which country each such entity is based. [17478]

Mr Hoban: The information that my hon. Friend requires can be found on the website of the European Investment Bank at the following address:

http://www.eib.org/projects/loans/index.htm

EU Law: Fines

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect on the balance of the Consolidated Fund of financial corrections imposed by the EU for failure to implement requirements of EU regulations. [17399]

Justine Greening: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Daventry (Chris Heaton-Harris) on 7 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 292W.

Excise Duties: Biofuels

Dr Wollaston: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of existing levels of taxation on biofuels. [17105]

Justine Greening: Under plans inherited from the previous Government, the 20ppl biofuel duty differential ended on 1 April 2010 for all biofuels (biodiesel and bioethanol) except those produced from used cooking oils, which is currently subject to a two-year temporary extension of the differential. Support for biofuels is provided by the renewable transport fuel obligation, which has a greater environmental focus. The Chancellor keeps all taxes under review.

Government Assets

Dr Pugh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress has been made towards the target for the disposal of surplus fixed assets set in the 2007 comprehensive spending review. [16751]

Danny Alexander: Comprehensive spending review 2007 reported that £18.3 billion had been sold by March 2007. Since then, an additional £7.7 billion has been sold (latest figures to end of 2008-09).

The coalition Government set out in the June Budget 2010 their approach to managing assets, including a programme of asset commercialisation over the next 12 months.

Guardian's Allowance: Lone Parents

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward proposals to extend the eligibility criteria for Guardian's Allowance to relatives caring for a child in circumstances in which one parent is deceased and the surviving parent is unable to provide financial support. [17172]

Mr Gauke: We have no plans to change the conditions of entitlement to guardian's allowance.

Income Tax: Redcar

Ian Swales: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of people in Redcar constituency who will be affected by the increase in the threshold for payment of the basic rate of income tax. [16538]

Mr Gauke: A total of 880,000 individuals are taken out of income tax. However, the information requested is not available at parliamentary constituency level due to small survey sample sizes at this level of geography, and because the information is based on 2007-08 survey data which would not be reliable for this purpose.

Available information on incomes and tax by parliamentary constituency based on the latest available Survey of Personal Incomes (2007-08) can be found in Table 3.15 'Income and tax by Parliamentary Constituency' on the HM Revenue and Customs website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_distribution/menu.htm

International Monetary Fund

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with the International Monetary Fund on *(a)* long-term unemployment, *(b)* public sector job creation and retention and *(c)* private sector job creation and retention. [15789]

Danny Alexander: The IMF holds regular bilateral discussions with each of its member countries as part of its country surveillance function, under Article IV of the IMF's Articles of Agreement. IMF staff recently visited the UK as part of their 2010 Article IV consultation, and met with a variety of institutions including

HM Treasury to discuss issues relating to the economy. The IMF's Concluding Statement sets out its view that the Government's deficit reduction plan will ensure the sustainability of the public finances and support economic growth. The IMF concluded that the early action taken by the Government has increased the credibility of the consolidation and is consistent with a sustainable recovery, in line with the OBR forecasts in the June Budget.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter of 20 July from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on the Rev Father P. Connelly, transferred by the Secretary of State for International Development. [17675]

Mr Hoban: I have replied to the right hon. Member.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter of 24 August from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on Ms A. Kabdebo-Gedeon. [17677]

Justine Greening: A reply has been sent to the right hon. Member.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter of 23 August from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on Mr K. Spelmam. [17678]

Mr Hoban: A reply has been sent to the right hon. Member.

National Insurance and PAYE

Mr Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the national insurance and PAYE system began to operate. [15919]

Mr Gauke: The national insurance and PAYE service went live in June 2009.

National Insurance Fund

Steve Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the reasons are for the difference between the estimates of the surplus of the national insurance fund published by HM Revenue and Customs and the Debt Management Office. [16903]

Mr Gauke: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) do not publish estimates of the National Insurance Fund (NIF) surplus. The actual surplus is recorded in the annual cash-based NIF accounts which are published on the HMRC website.

The Debt Management Office (DMO) publishes only retrospective data regarding the National Insurance Fund Investment Account (NIFIA) and publishes no forecasts. The UK DMO produces annual accounts for the NIFIA—the surplus disclosed in these accounts refers to the total interest income from the investments held by NIFIA during the period.

The DMO produced NIFIA surplus is thus different and not comparable to the HMRC produced NIF surplus.

PAYE

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what steps HM Revenue and Customs plans to take to assess hardship in cases where individuals cannot afford to make repayments of underpaid tax as a result of historical errors in the PAYE system; [15457]

(2) at what rate interest will be charged on underpaid tax owed by individuals as a result of recent miscalculations of tax liability made by HM Revenue and Customs in the PAYE system; [15461]

(3) at what rate interest will be paid on overpaid tax owed to individuals as a result of recent miscalculations of tax liability made by HM Revenue and Customs in the PAYE system. [15462]

Mr Gauke: It is a normal part of the PAYE cycle that changes in circumstances that cannot be reflected in in-year tax deductions need to be reconciled annually. This is not a Revenue error but the PAYE system not being able to react quickly enough to changes. PAYE works well for the majority of people, particularly those with stable circumstances, but because the processes remain fundamentally unchanged since they were introduced in 1944 there are limitations. The coalition Government are looking at how to reform PAYE further and make it more efficient.

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) charge 3% interest on late paid tax and pay 0.5% interest on repayments of tax.

Following HMRC's recent end of year PAYE reconciliation exercise for the years 2008-09 and 2009-10, amounts overpaid will be repaid together with any accrued repayment interest.

For individuals who have underpaid tax by less than £2,000 HMRC will where possible collect this through salary deductions by adjusting tax codes. Interest is not chargeable in these cases.

HMRC has put in place a new process for people with 2008-09 and 2009-10 underpayments that cannot automatically be paid through their salary deductions—generally those who owe £2,000 or more. Individuals in this position will be offered the same length of time to pay as those with smaller underpayments and not face interest, provided they engage with HMRC and agree to pay their underpayment. Individuals who owe £2,000 or more will also have the option where possible of paying up to £2,000 through their salaries.

People facing financial difficulties in paying will be treated sympathetically and, where necessary, will be able to spread their payments up to three years.

PAYE: Chester

Stephen Mosley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many residents of City of Chester constituency have been identified as having *(a)* underpaid and *(b)* overpaid pay-as-you-earn contributions during the recent automated reconciliation of such payments. [17063]

Mr Gauke: The information requested is available only at disproportionate cost, as HMRC do not hold this data in relation to MPs' constituencies.

Private and Public Sector: Manpower

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which officials within the Office for Budget Responsibility authorised the publication of the projections for public and private sector employment for the period 2011-2016 published on June 30. [6667]

Justine Greening: The Terms of Reference for the interim Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) state that it has discretion over what material it publishes. These terms of reference were agreed between Sir Alan Budd and the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 8 June.

The interim OBR is committed to improved transparency as is set out in the foreword to the OBR's pre-Budget forecast published on 14 June. This foreword set out that the OBR would as far as possible meet requests for further background information.

The OBR's pre-Budget forecast and Budget forecast published on 22 June provided detailed information on the economy and public finances forecast, including detail on the labour market.

In response to a number of queries the interim Budget Responsibility Committee authorised the publication of the general Government employment assumptions on 30 June 2010.

Revenue and Customs

Kate Green: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many local tax offices were in operation in each of the last five years; which such offices he plans to *(a)* retain and *(b)* close; and if he will make a statement. [16632]

Mr Gauke: The number of offices held by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) are detailed in the following table. HMRC does not use the classification of "local tax office" and the numbers provided are the total HMRC offices at the beginning of April in each year.

	Total number of HMRC offices
1 April:	
2005	617
2006	594
2007	571
2008	545
2009	527
2010	446

The Department's Regional Review of its estate concluded in December 2008. In total 258 offices were identified for closure.

Details of the decisions made regarding each HMRC office, including the chief executive's 13 January 2010 formal announcement of 130 office closures as the final stage of the Regional Review, can be found on HMRC's web-page at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/local/change-programme.htm

HMRC office numbers since 2005 have been affected by the creation of the Serious Organised Crime Agency and the UK Border Agency (UKBA). The associated transfer of offices to these agencies is in addition to vacations under the Regional Review programme. Following the transfer of HMRC offices to UKBA, the total number of HMRC offices at April 2010 was 446.

HMRC is currently reviewing its future accommodation needs but has not yet made firm plans for further office closures. However, in a number of buildings HMRC are seeking to take advantage of impending lease break opportunities.

Revenue and Customs: Manpower

Kate Green: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many full-time equivalent staff work in each local tax office. [16631]

Mr Gauke: Most of HMRC's business is organised on national lines and it does not categorise its offices as "local" or otherwise. The total number of full-time equivalent staff in HMRC at 30 September 2010 was 67,498.8.

Revenue and Customs: Telephone Services

Andrew Bridgen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of calls to the Tax Credit Helpline *(a)* took over 30 seconds to answer and *(b)* were lost in the last 12 months. [17046]

Mr Gauke: Aggregated data on the number of calls to the Tax Credit Helpline that took over 30 seconds to answer is not held centrally. Interrogating the call waiting time data HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) does collect in order to provide this information could therefore be completed only at disproportionate cost.

HMRC does not have a specific measure to identify those calls that are "lost." In this instance, HMRC has interpreted "lost" to mean those calls which were "abandoned" after the customer selected an option from the call steering menu and were placed in a queue to speak to an adviser (i.e. - calls that HMRC Contact Centres have the capacity to answer but the call was abandoned/lost before connection to an adviser). For the period October 9 to September 10, the proportion of calls that were "abandoned" on the Tax Credit Helpline was 17%.

Sheffield Forgemasters: Correspondence

Angela Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether any Minister in his Department has received copies of *(a)* written and *(b)* e-mail correspondence on the matter of Sheffield Forgemasters addressed to Ministers in the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills from Andrew Cook of William Cook Holdings; [15874]

(2) whether any Minister in his Department received correspondence on the matter of Sheffield Forgemasters from Andrew Cook, of William Cook Holdings, in May or June 2010. [15875]

Danny Alexander: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave her on 29 June, *Official Report*, column 506W.

Social Security Benefits: Greater Manchester

Kate Green: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the number of benefits claimants in Stretford and Urmston constituency who would be affected by implementation of the proposed cap on benefits of £26,000. [17398]

Chris Grayling: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is not available at a parliamentary constituency level.

The information is available for Great Britain. Latest estimates show that in 2010-11 there are around 100,000 working age households in receipt of more than £500 a week in all benefits and tax credits, including disability living allowance. If disability living allowance is excluded then around 50,000 working age households are in receipt of more than £500 a week.

The Chancellor's announcement of a benefit cap was informed by high-level consideration of the broad impacts. We are now working up the more detailed design of the caps as part of the spending review. When we introduce legislation for the implementation of the caps, we shall publish an impact assessment.

Note:

All figures are rounded to the nearest 50,000.

Source:

DWP Policy Simulation Model, based on the 2008/09 Family Resources Survey data.

State Retirement Pensions: Uprating

Mr Anderson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has made an assessment of the likely effects on pensioners in *(a)* Blaydon constituency and *(b)* the North East of changes to state pension payments from April 2011 consequent on the use of the consumer price index as an uprating mechanism. [16584]

Steve Webb: I have been asked to reply.

The Government's proposals for increases in the rates of social security benefits including state pensions from April 2011 will be announced to Parliament in due course. As outlined in the emergency Budget the principles by which the elements of state pension will be increased are as follows.

The basic state pension is subject to a "triple guarantee" that it will be increased by the highest of prices, earnings or 2.5%, with an additional commitment that it will be increased in April 2011 only, in line with the retail prices index (RPI), should that index show the highest growth.

Someone retiring today on a full basic state pension will receive £15,000 more over their retirement than they would have done under the old prices link.

Mr Anderson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has made an estimate of the effect on private pensions payments of uprating them in line with the consumer price index. [16585]

Steve Webb: I have been asked to reply.

Legislation sets out the minimum increase for defined benefit private sector occupational pensions earned from service after April 1997. The consumer prices index (CPI) will be used to determine the minimum amounts for increasing private sector pension schemes going forward.

The impact on pensions in payment will vary depending on the rules of individual schemes and the circumstances of the individual. Schemes often choose to pay more than the minimum, for example, paying increases for service before 1997.

It will also vary depending on how schemes respond to changes to the statutory minimum amounts. Some schemes may, for example, change their rules to adopt CPI as the measure of inflation, but others may choose to stay with RPI.

Tax Avoidance: Business

Dr Pugh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he plans to take to reduce the level of corporate tax avoidance. [16750]

Mr Gauke: This Government are committed to tackling avoidance wherever it occurs and will be building in sustainable defences against avoidance opportunities when undertaking policy reform and reviewing areas of the tax system in which repeated changes have been necessary to close loopholes. We are also exploring whether there is a case for developing a general anti avoidance rule (GAAR) for the UK.

Alongside this we will continue to use intelligence obtained from the Disclosure of Tax Avoidance Schemes regime and other sources to detect avoidance schemes early and we will challenge avoidance robustly where we find it.

The Government announced on 20 September that they will make £900 million available over the spending review period to fund HMRC's compliance activities, both to tackle tax avoidance and to combat tax evasion.

Tax Collection

Kate Green: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the monetary value of uncollected tax revenue in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [16743]

Mr Gauke: The recent publication of the tax gap figures for 2008-09 provides a detailed breakdown of the monetary value of the UK tax gap. This being the difference between the amount of tax collected and the amount that, in HMRC's opinion should be collected—the theoretical liability. This document can be found at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/measuring-tax-gaps-2010.htm.pdf

and evidence suggests that the tax gap is in the order of £42 billion, 9% of the estimated total tax liability.

With regard to tax debt, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Solihull (Lorely Burt) on 11 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 243W.

Steve Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make it his policy not to support the proposal of HM Revenue and Customs for centralised deductions of tax and national insurance contributions. [17044]

Mr Gauke: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) published a discussion paper 'Improving the operation of Pay As You Earn (PAYE)' on 27 July 2010. The purpose of the discussion paper was to seek views about potential options to improve PAYE processes.

The consultation period is now closed and the responses are being analysed. Any further announcements will be made by the Chancellor in due course.

Tax Collection: Enforcement

Mr Anderson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much tax revenue on average an enforcement and compliance officer in HM Revenue and Customs collected the last financial year. [16583]

Mr Gauke: HMRC enforcement and compliance officers of all grades are engaged in a variety of compliance activities, which may include the recovery of underpaid tax, the prevention of further tax losses, debt collection and the deterrence of tax evasion through, for example, criminal investigation. For this reason, HMRC does not collect statistics on the average revenue collected by a compliance officer. Results of HMRC's compliance activity were published in their 2009 autumn performance report which can be found at:

http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm77/7774/7774.pdf

Tax Yields

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent estimate is of the proportion of annual tax revenue contributed by *(a)* public and *(b)* private sector employees. [16732]

Mr Gauke: Estimated total income tax liabilities in 2007-08 of persons in employment broken down by legal status of their employer are provided in the following table. Estimates are based on the 2007-08 Survey of Personal Incomes.

Income tax liabilities[1] in 2007-08

	£ million	*% total*
Persons in employment[2]	134,000	82
where main employment is:[3]		
public sector	25,700	16
other	101,000	62
not classified	6,890	4
Other taxpayers	28,700	18
Total income tax liabilities	163,000	100

[1] Table shows total liabilities of income taxpayers estimated across all incomes subject to tax.

[2] Taxpayers with pay.

[3] Reflecting legal status of employer given by Inter-Departmental Business Register where available (main employment where more than one). Public sector defined as central Government, local authorities and public corporations.

Source:

Survey of Personal Incomes, 2007-08. See http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_distribution/inc-distribution-note.pdf

Taxation

Lorely Burt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to HM Revenue and Customs' publication, Measuring Tax Gaps 2009, March 2010, what his most recent estimate is of the size of the tax gap in *(a)* absolute and *(b)* percentage terms; and what steps HM Revenue and Customs is taking to avoid underestimating the avoidance tax gap, as referred to in paragraph 4.77. [15376]

Mr Gauke: 'Measuring Tax Gaps 2010', available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/measuring-tax-gaps-2010.htm.pdf

contains the most recent estimate of the size of the tax gap as *(a)* £42 billion, *(b)* 8.6% of total tax liability.

HMRC has a range of tools to detect avoidance. The Disclosure of Tax Avoidance Schemes (DOTAS) regime provides early information about tax avoidance schemes and those who use them. Finance Act 2010 introduced a range of amendments intended to strengthen the DOTAS regime to provide HMRC with better information about avoidance. HMRC also detects avoidance through its compliance work and real-time engagement with large businesses. Avoidance detected in these ways will inform future estimates of the tax gap.

Taxation: Environment Protection

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the implementation of his proposals to increase the share of revenues drawn from green taxes will be revenue-neutral. [17119]

Justine Greening: The coalition Government are committed to increasing the share of revenue drawn from green taxes. All taxes are kept under review and announcements on tax policy are made at the Budget.

Taxation: Holiday Accommodation

Mr Weir: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether he has had discussions with the *(a)* Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, *(b)* Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and *(c)* Secretary of State for Scotland on the likely effects on remote and island Scottish areas of the Government's proposals to amend the eligibility thresholds and reliefs available under the Furnished Holiday Lettings scheme; [17036]

(2) whether he has made an assessment of the likely effects on the capacity of self-catering owners who subscribe to quality assessment schemes operated by the National Tourist Boards to maintain their present ratings of his Department's proposed changes to sideways and off-set reliefs; [17037]

(3) what competitor analysis in respect of each country his Department undertook in formulating his Department's proposals for amendments to the Furnished Holiday Lettings Relief scheme; [17038]

(4) whether he assessed the merits of a derogation from the proposed changes to the eligibility thresholds for Furnished Holiday Lettings Relief for claims made by self-catering operators in respect of properties in island areas in UK territorial waters; [17039]

(5) what assessment he has made of the likely effects on social enterprises in remote and island communities of the proposed changes to the eligibility thresholds and off-set reliefs under the Furnished Holiday Lettings Relief scheme; [17040]

(6) if he will assess the merits of a provision to enable the calculation of average attained occupancy levels over two or more tax years to comply with the proposed eligibility thresholds for Furnished Holiday Lettings Relief *(a)* on a permanent basis and *(b)* for the purpose of taking account of the effects on the ability of businesses to continue trading during prolonged periods of severe weather; [17042]

(7) if he will assess the merits of a provision to enable a phased introduction of the proposed changes to the eligibility criteria for Furnished Holiday Lettings Relief by means of an increase in the threshold by

seven days in each of the next five tax years *(a)* in respect of all areas and *(b)* in respect of regions with Convergence Objective status. [17043]

Mr Gauke: Treasury Ministers and officials hold discussions with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. It is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

There is a formal consultation on the proposed changes to furnished holiday letting which runs until 22 October 2010. The Government published an impact assessment with the consultation which summarises the key points of the assessment undertaken.

The issues raised in these questions, with regard to both the impact of proposals, and alternative options, will be added to the other comments and responses to the consultation and will be carefully reviewed in arriving at the Government's response.

VAT

Mr Wallace: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what methods other than online submission are available to businesses wishing to file value added tax returns. [16710]

Mr Gauke: Businesses that are not legally required to file their VAT returns online may send a paper return to HMRC by post.

Sir Alan Beith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what target HM Revenue and Customs has set for the time taken between receiving an application for a value added tax number and issuing a number; and in what proportion of cases this target has been met in the most recent period for which figures are available. [17792]

Mr Gauke: HM Revenue and Customs target for 2010-11 is to process 70% of VAT registration applications within 10 days.

In the period April to September 2010, 57.4% of applications were processed within 10 days with 70.9% being processed within 13 days.

HMRC aims to issue VAT registration numbers as quickly as possible, while protecting the VAT system from fraudulent registrations. It is necessary to balance speed of registration against the need to risk assess and check applications to safeguard against fraud.

VAT: Churches

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has for the future of the Listed Places of Worship Grant scheme. [16923]

John Penrose: I have been asked to reply.

The Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme makes grants equivalent to the VAT incurred in making repairs to listed buildings in primary use as places of worship. The future of the scheme will be determined during the forthcoming spending review.

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many claims were made under the Listed Places of Worship Grant scheme *(a)* in each region, *(b)* in respect of each religious denomination and *(c)* for each purpose in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [16924]

John Penrose: I have been asked to reply.

The Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme makes grants equivalent to the VAT incurred in making repairs to listed buildings in primary use as places of worship.

(a) The number of claims and total value by region in 2009-10 are in the following table.

Region	*Number of claims*	*Total value (£)*
East of England	570	1,723,028.33
South East	571	2,204,719.38
North West	327	1,510,511.24
East Midlands	432	1,258,334.99
Yorkshire and the Humber	285	1,109,998.26
North East	64	199,916.56
West Midlands	350	1,275,554.53
London	177	1,482,054.76
South West	483	1,467,788.59
Scotland	246	1,223,332.67
Wales	196	841,999.77
Northern Ireland	61	666,173.59
Total	3,762	14,963,412.67

(b) Figures for the number of claims and total value by denomination or faith group in 2009-10 are in the following table.

Denomination/faith group	*Number of claims made*	*Total value of claims (£)*
Annibynwyr Cymraeg	1	17,324.34
Assemblies of God	1	1,187.40
Baptist	42	174,383.54
Church of England	3,013	10,941,169.40
Christadelphian	3	68,357.81
Christian Free Church	6	30,762.97
Church in Wales	132	540,874.79
Church of Ireland	31	266,479.11
Church of Scotland	175	718,453.12
Congregational	12	66,037.56
Coptic Orthodox	2	26,063.81
Ecumenical	4	12,215.57
Episcopal	33	201,384.81
Greek Orthodox	3	4,121.18
Independent Congregational	6	8,961.11
Jewish	10	78,897.89
Lutheran	1	6,379.80
Methodist	58	155,585.77
Moravian	9	20,632.01
Multi Denominational	1	4,216.11
Pentecostal	4	28,582.14
Presbyterian	30	64,395.58
Protestant	2	6,090.40
Religious Society of Friends	13	62,534.61
Roman Catholic	112	1,147,576.92
Seventh Day Adventist	2	42,145.92
Unitarian	7	31,957.16
United Reformed	43	162,374.12
Welsh Independents	6	74,271.72
Total	3,762	14,963,412.67

(c) Grants are made in respect of the full range of building repairs, associated professional fees, and repairs to clocks, pews, bells and organs. It is not possible to provide figures for each classification of works. From January 2011 until April 2001, grants will not be available for professional fees or repairs to fixtures and fittings due to the need to make in-year financial savings. Plans for the period after April 2011 will be announced in the Spending Review later this week.

VAT: Electric Vehicles

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the merits of setting a zero rate of value added tax for electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles. [17118]

Mr Gauke: No assessment has been made.

There are generous existing incentives for electric vehicles, including reliefs from vehicle excise duty and the taxation of company cars. In July, the Secretary of State for Transport announced that grants of up to £5,000 will be available to those buying ultra-low carbon cars between 1 January 2011 and 31 March 2012.

The case for any further support needs to be weighed against Government's priority of tackling the record budget deficit in a decisive but fair way, to restore confidence in our economy and support the economic recovery. Introducing a VAT zero rate would also require the agreement of our European partners.

Welfare Tax Credits and Child Benefit: Wales

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in each constituency in North Wales received *(a)* child tax credit, *(b)* working tax credit and *(c)* child benefit in each of the last five years. [17001]

Mr Gauke: Information on the number of families benefiting from child and working tax credits, by each parliamentary constituency, local authority and region is available in the HMRC snapshot publications "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Geographical Analyses", available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

Information on the number of families receiving Child Benefit, by each parliamentary constituency, local authority and region is available in the HMRC snapshot publications "Child Benefit Statistics Geographical Analysis", available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/child_benefit/geographical.htm

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr Betts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to answer Question 7903, on accrued rights and public sector pensions, tabled on 7 July 2010. [17639]

Danny Alexander: I have now replied to the hon. Member and apologise for the delay in doing so.

HEALTH

Asthma: Pupils

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has had recent discussions with ministerial colleagues on the annual number of fatal asthma attacks in schools; and whether he plans to take further steps to seek to reduce that number. [16927]

Paul Burstow: Health Ministers have regular discussions with our ministerial colleagues in the Department for Education. These discussions include how schools can manage long-term health conditions, like asthma in children, effectively and safely. Our aim is to produce a concise set of guidance that clarifies expectations, statutory responsibilities and reiterates the importance of support measures with a clear explanation of the roles and responsibilities of key staff members.

Contaminated Blood Products

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government has taken in response to Lord Archer's report on the contamination of blood products; and if he will make a statement. [17878]

Anne Milton: The majority of Lord Archer's recommendations are already in place in one form or another, although they have not necessarily been implemented exactly as Lord Archer recommended, in all cases. These include:

Recommendation 1 - the Department has brought the Haemophilia Alliance - which is a United Kingdom wide partnership between patients, haemophilia doctors and others involved in their care - into the process of policy making on haemophilia issues;

Recommendation 2 - haemophilia patients and their partners are offered testing for any infectious condition, if deemed necessary by their clinician;

Recommendation 3 - blood donations are tested for syphillis, hepatitis B, HIV, hepatitis C, and Human T-Lymphotropic Virus. This list is kept under review by the Government's Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs ;

Recommendation 4 - general practitioner visits, counselling, physiotherapy and home nursing should be freely available in England under the national health service, where needed;

Recommendation 5 - the Government are funding the Haemophilia Society with £100,000 per annum over the next four years;

Recommendation 6 - the Government provide some financial support to those affected via the Macfarlane and Eileen Trusts and the Skipton Fund. They are not means tested, and are discounted for tax purposes and in calculating state benefits;

Recommendation 7 - the Government are currently considering the issue of access to insurance; and

Recommendation 8 - the Department is funding the UK Haemophilia Centre Doctors Organisation to identify any other patients who might have been infected. An interim report is expected in 2011, with a final report in 2012.

There are a small number of recommendations that have not been implemented. These primarily relate to aspects of the ex-gratia payments, free prescriptions in England, and access to insurance. I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement I gave on 14 October, *Official Report*, column 30WS, announcing that I have instigated a review of these recommendations to see what more can be done.

Cancer

Mr Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what proportion of patients diagnosed with each type of cancer following an admission to hospital in *(a)* each cancer network, *(b)* each primary care trust and *(c)* England was aged (i) 49 years and under, (ii) 50 to 59 years, (iii) 60 to 69 years, (iv) 70 to 79 years and (v) over 80 years in each of the last five years; [17167]

(2) how many people who received any active treatment for each type of cancer in *(a)* each cancer network, *(b)* each primary care trust and *(c)* England were aged (i) 49 years and under, (ii) 50 to 59 years, (iii) 60 to 69 years, (iv) 70 to 79 years and (v) over 80 years in each of the last five years; [17168]

(3) how many people who received any surgical treatment for each type of cancer in *(a)* each cancer network, *(b)* each primary care trust and *(c)* England were aged (i) 49 years and under, (ii) 50 to 59 years, (iii) 60 to 69 years, (iv) 70 to 79 years and (v) over 80 years in each of the last five years; [17169]

(4) how many finished consultant episodes there were for patients with each type of cancer who were aged *(a)* 49 years and under, *(b)* 50 to 59 years, *(c)* 60 to 69 years, *(d)* 70 to 79 years and *(e)* over 80 years in (i) each cancer network, (ii) each primary care trust and (iii) England in each of the last five years. [17170]

Paul Burstow: Information on the proportion of patients diagnosed with each type of cancer following an admission to hospital by cancer network, primary care trust (PCT) and nationally, who were aged 49 years and under, 50 to 59 years, 60 to 69 years, 70 to 79 years and over 80 years for each of the last five years cannot be provided in the format requested. Hospital episode statistics do not identify whether cancer had been diagnosed before or after admission.

Information on the number of finished consultant episodes where there was a primary diagnosis of cancer by age, both nationally and by PCT, can be provided, and has been placed in the Library. This information is not available at cancer network level.

Information on the number of people who received any surgical or active treatment for each type of cancer by cancer network, primary care trust and nationally who were aged 49 years and under, 50 to 59 years, 60 to 69 years, 70 to 79 years and over 80 years in each of the last five years cannot be provided in the format requested. Information on finished consultant episodes where there was a primary diagnosis of cancer and any named primary of secondary procedure or intervention can be provided at PCT level and for the age groups requested for the last five years. This information has been placed in the Library.

Children's Trusts

Dr Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health who will replace primary care trusts as representatives on children's trusts following the implementation of the proposals contained in the NHS White Paper. [16742]

Anne Milton: The Department has specifically asked for views on how the proposals contained in "Equality and Excellence: Liberating the NHS" might best fit with current duty to co-operate through children's trust arrangements.

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome: Blood

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what date his Department's decision that people with myalgic encephalomyelitis should not give blood was *(a)* made and *(b)* implemented. [16643]

Anne Milton: The UK Blood Services decision to permanently exclude from blood donation, anyone who reports that they have had Myalgic Encephalopathy/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (ME/CFS) was made on 8 July 2010. The change to the donor selection guidelines will come into force on 1 November 2010. This change is being made on the grounds of donor safety, as ME/CFS is a relapsing condition. It brings practice for ME/CFS into line with other relapsing conditions or neurological conditions of unknown origin.

The change to donor selection criteria is being made following a recommendation by the UK Blood Services Standing Advisory Committee on the Care and Selection of Donors, and Joint Professional Advisory Committee.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Stroud of 27 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 942W, on chronic fatigue syndrome, whether *(a)* the UK Blood Services and Health Protection Agency study of the prevalence of a rodent virus linked to myalgic encephalomyelitis and *(b)* his Department's risk assessment in respect of the study has been completed; and if he will make a statement. [16644]

Anne Milton: There has been a consistent failure of independent European and American studies to confirm the original American study that described the detection of xenotropic murine leukemia virus-related virus (XMRV), a virus related to rodent viruses, in patients with chronic fatigue syndrome, sometimes referred to as myalgic encephomyelitis. An expert subgroup of National Expert Panel for New and Emerging Infections (NEPNEI) met in May 2010, to consider all available evidence about XMRV and conduct a risk assessment. The subgroup concluded that XMRV can infect humans but there is currently no evidence that it causes human disease and that on the evidence before the group, no public health action is required at this time. Since the subgroup meeting in May there has been no new scientific evidence that would change the conclusions of the subgroup but they are keeping it under review.

The Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs (SaBTO), on the basis of current evidence does not recommend further measures at present but wishes to continue to monitor the situation. The NHS Blood and Transplant and Health Protection Agency study group concur with the views expressed both by NEPNEI and SaBTO but also recognise the need for further research on the prevalence of XMRV in the United Kingdom. In a recent unpublished pilot study conducted by the group a series of 540 randomly selected English blood donors were screened for XMRV and none were found to be infected.

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease: Health Services

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to publish his Department's clinical strategy on chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; and if he will make a statement. [16569]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department is currently reviewing the responses received to its consultation on a strategy for services for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in England and will make an announcement in due course on the publication of any final strategy.

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to implement his Department's clinical strategy on chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; and if he will make a statement. [16837]

Mr Simon Burns: A consultation was held earlier this year on a draft strategy for services for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in England, closing on 6 April 2010. The Department is currently considering the responses received and will be taking these into account when shaping the final strategy. In advance of publication of the final strategy, the Department is doing some preparatory work with the development of communities of practice at a local level and the initiation of pilots working with NHS improvement.

Contaminated Blood Products

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many of the recommendations made by Lord Archer in the report of his inquiry into contaminated blood products his Department has implemented. [16844]

Anne Milton: Some of Lord Archer's recommendations are already in place in one form or another, although they have not necessarily been implemented exactly as Lord Archer recommended, in all cases. These include:

Recommendation 1—The Department has brought the Haemophilia Alliance—which is a United Kingdom wide partnership between patients, haemophilia doctors and others involved in their care—into the process of policy making on haemophilia issues;

Recommendation 2—Haemophilia patients and their partners are offered testing for any infectious condition, if deemed necessary by their clinician;

Recommendation 3—Blood donations are tested for syphilis, hepatitis B, HIV, hepatitis C, and Human T-Lymphotropic Virus. This list is kept under review by the Government's Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs ;

Recommendation 4—General practitioner visits, counselling, physiotherapy and home nursing should be freely available in England under the NHS, where needed;

Recommendation 5—The Government are funding the Haemophilia Society with £100,000 per annum over the next four years;

Recommendation 6—The Government provide some financial support to those affected via the MacFarlane and Eileen Trusts and the Skipton Fund. They are not means tested, and are discounted for tax purposes and in calculating state benefits;

Recommendation 7—The Government are currently considering the issue of access to insurance; and

Recommendation 8—The Department is funding the UK Haemophilia Centre Doctors Organisation to identify any other patients who might have been infected. An interim report is expected in 2011, with a final report in 2012.

There are a small number of recommendations that have not been implemented. These primarily relate to aspects of the ex-gratia payments, free prescriptions in England, and access to insurance. I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement i gave on 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 30WS, announcing that I have instigated a review of these recommendations to see what more can be done.

Dementia: Devon

Anne Marie Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received on the adequacy of dementia services available to people living in *(a)* South Devon and *(b)* Newton Abbot constituency. [17866]

Paul Burstow: The Secretary of State has received no representations on the adequacy of dementia services available to people living in South Devon and Newton Abbot constituency.

Dental Services

Dr Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health who will be responsible for ensuring the provision of NHS dental services in areas of shortage after the implementation of the proposals contained in the NHS White Paper. [16748]

Mr Simon Burns: Primary care trusts are currently responsible for commissioning sufficient primary care dentistry to meet local demand. Under the proposals set out in the White Paper 'Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS', the NHS Commissioning Board would, subject to the outcome of consultation and parliamentary approval, take on responsibility for commissioning primary care dentistry and, if locally required, increasing those services to meet demand.

Departmental Consultants

Liz Kendall: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on management consultants in the latest year for which figures are available. [16624]

Mr Simon Burns: In 2009-10, the Department spent £108 million on management consultants.

Departmental Drinking Water

Nick de Bois: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on bottled water in each year since 2008. [16874]

Mr Simon Burns: From July 2008, the Department no longer purchases bottled water.

For meeting or hospitality purposes, the Department utilises its own water supply, which is filtered and bottled on site. The costs for the supply of bottled water are as follows:

	£
2007-08	108,691
2008-09	45,696
2009-10	[1]35,250

[1] Figures for 2009-10 include costs up to the end of September 2010.

Departmental Manpower

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many officials his Department has appointed on fixed-term contracts since 7 May 2010. [16793]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has issued six fixed-term appointment contracts since 7 May 2010.

Departmental Work Experience

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many interns his Department has engaged in the last 12 months; and how many were *(a)* unpaid, *(b)* remunerated with expenses only and *(c)* paid at the rate of the national minimum wage or above. [17213]

Mr Simon Burns: In 2009-10, the Department recruited three apprentices, three student candidates from the Cabinet Office Summer Development and Placement Schemes, 10 analytical students and three financial student placements from universities and three Government Economics Service Summer Placement Scheme students. All are paid at the Department's minimum administrative officer pay scale for 2009-10.

Work experience placements are unpaid (expenses are reimbursed) and are arranged by local business units. Information on these placements is not held centrally and it would incur disproportionate costs to collect the information requested.

Diabetes: Medical Treatments

John Glen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department has issued to primary care trusts on administering insulin pump therapy. [16702]

Paul Burstow: In July 2008, the National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) issued a review of its guidance on insulin pump therapy, which is supported by a costing template and separate guidance on the commissioning of insulin pump services. Implementation of the NICE guidance is the responsibility of commissioners and/or providers.

The Department has not issued guidance to primary care trusts on administering insulin pump therapy.

Drugs: Finance

Harriett Baldwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether a patient who has paid for drugs may be reimbursed when a subsequent individual funding request is approved. [16827]

Mr Simon Burns: Eligibility for national health service treatment is not established until an individual funding request is approved. In certain circumstances, such as where the decision-making process is flawed through undue delay or the decision is clearly irrational, primary care trusts may consider making an ex gratia payment in accordance with the principles outlined in "Managing Public Money" available at:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/psf_mpm_index.htm

Drugs: Misuse

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will direct the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse to adhere to the guidance on long-term sobriety issued by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence. [17730]

Anne Milton: We expect all national health service organisations to take final guidance from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) fully into account when deciding what treatments to give people. However, NICE guidance does not replace the knowledge and skills of individual health professionals who treat patients.

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people in England who were prescribed methadone and benzodiazepines in the latest year for which figures are available. [17093]

Mr Simon Burns: Data for the number of people receiving substitute prescribing interventions for substance misuse in England for the period 2009-10 are in the following table. Information to enable this figure to be broken down in relation to specific medications is not collected. However, the figure does include those receiving methadone or buprenorphine substitute treatment.

2009-10

	Number
Substitute prescribing	153,632

Source:
National Drug Treatment Monitoring System.

The following table shows the prescription items of methadone and benzodiazepines dispensed in England. There is no information available on the number of people who were prescribed these items or the reason for prescription. Since drugs can be prescribed to treat more than one condition, for example methadone can be used as a cough suppressant or analgesic as well as for treating substance misuse, it is not possible to separate the different conditions which a drug was prescribed for.

2009

British National Formulary chemical name	*Prescription items (Thousand)*
Methadone hydrochloride	2,968.0
Benzodiazepines	11,436.6

Source:
Prescription Cost Analysis.

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of *(a)* the number of people who were prescribed (i) methadone hydrochloride mixture and (ii) buphenorphine/subutex for opiate dependence, *(b)* the average dose prescribed of each type of medication and *(c)* the average cost to the public purse of prescribing each type of medication for one patient in the latest year for which figures are available. [17094]

Anne Milton: The National Drug Treatment Monitoring System collects information on the number of people receiving substitute prescribing interventions for substance misuse in England, but does not distinguish between methadone and other drugs such as buprenorphine which are also recommended for the treatment of drug misuse by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence. The number of adults receiving substitute prescribing in their latest treatment journey was 153,632 in 2009-10.

Data are not collected on the number of people who were prescribed methadone hydrochloride mixture and buphenorphine/subutex. However, Drug Misuse and Dependence: UK Guidelines on Clinical Management (2007) does indicate that there is a consistent finding of greater benefit from maintaining patients on a daily dose between 60 and 120 milligram (mg) of methadone; and that doses of between 12 and 16mg and up to 32mg in exceptional cases) would seem appropriate for long-term prescribing.

Information about the annual cost of prescribing methadone or buprenorphine for opiate dependence in specialist drug treatment is not collected. However, in 2007-08 a one-off unit cost exercise was carried out by the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse, assessed the average cost of prescribing interventions (including methadone and buprenorphine) per individual per day, during that year. The exercise calculated the cost of specialist prescribing at £6.81 per day, which included dispensing and keyworking costs but not the costs of psychosocial or other support interventions received by the individual at the same time

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he made of the number of people who had been on a continuous *(a)* methadone and *(b)* buprenorphine/subutex prescription for (i) 12 to 24, (ii) 24 to 48 and (iii) 48 months or more in the latest year for which figures are available. [17095]

Anne Milton: The National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS) collects information on the number of people receiving substitute prescribing interventions for substance misuse in England, but does not distinguish between methadone and other drugs such as buprenorphine which are also recommended for the treatment of drug misuse by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE). NICE recommends that substitute prescribing should always be accompanied by psychosocial interventions.

In addition, Drug Misuse and Dependence: UK Guidelines on Clinical Management (2007) state that any decision to maintain a patient on long-term prescribing should be an active one agreed between the clinician and patient, reviewed at regular intervals, and part of a broader programme of care-planned social and psychological support.

Drug addiction is a long-term chronic relapsing condition, which may require treatment over an extended period. The numbers of people in a continuous period of substitute prescribing for the time periods requested are as follows.

Latest continuous period of prescribing

	Less than 12 months	*%*	*1-2 years*	*%*	*2-4 years*	*%*	*4 years+*	*%*	*Total*
Total	58,773	38	28,947	19	30,792	20	35,120	23	153,632

Source:
Statistics from the NDTMS 1 April 2009 - 31 March 2010

Epilepsy: Health Services

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to introduce a national plan for all patients assessed as requiring access to an epilepsy specialist nurse; what his policy is on the future of epilepsy specialist nurses; and if he will make a statement. [17221]

Paul Burstow: We have no plans to introduce a national plan for all patients assessed as requiring access to an epilepsy nurse. It is the responsibility of local health bodies to commission services to meet the needs of those living with epilepsy, this includes the recruitment of specialist nurses where appropriate.

The National Service Framework for Long-term Conditions is the key tool for delivering the Government's strategy to support and improve services for those living with long-term neurological conditions, including epilepsy.

General Practitioners

Dr Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the proposed GP commissioning consortia will be made subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [16745]

Mr Simon Burns: The White Paper "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS" set out our proposals to devolve power and responsibility for commissioning services to local consortia of general practitioner (GP) practices.

Provisions have been made in the Health Bill for both the NHS Commissioning Board and GP consortia to be made subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

A number of supporting documents were published and in particular "Liberating the NHS: Commissioning for Patients" invited views on a number of areas of the commissioning agenda. The engagement exercise closed on 11 October and the Department is now analysing all of the contributions received.

Many of the proposals require primary legislation and are subject to the approval of Parliament. A Health Bill is to be introduced in this parliamentary session and will set out further detail about the duties and functions of commissioning consortia.

Dr Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health who will be responsible for monitoring the performance of GPs and ensuring that their skills are kept up to date and adequately revalidated after the implementation of the proposals contained in the NHS White Paper. [16746]

Mr Simon Burns: The public has the right to expect that their doctor is professionally up to date and fit to practise. Revalidation, which is currently being tested in the national health service, will be built on existing local processes of regular appraisal and effective clinical governance. The intention is that every five years, a revalidation recommendation will be made by a doctor's responsible officer to the General Medical Council. From 1 January 2011, subject to parliamentary approval, general practitioners will relate to a responsible officer in the primary care organisation that holds the performers list on which the individual doctor is included as a practitioner of primary medical services. The arrangements for nominating or appointing responsible officers in primary care following the proposed changes to NHS architecture set out in "Equity and excellence: Liberating the NHS" are currently being considered by Ministers and officials.

Dr Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health who will be responsible for ensuring that GPs follow best practice on *(a)* dementia diagnosis and treatment and *(b)* drug prescription after the implementation of the proposals contained in the NHS White Paper. [16747]

Paul Burstow: General practitioner (GP) consortia will be expected to involve relevant health and social care professionals from all sectors in helping design care pathways or care packages for people with dementia that achieve more integrated delivery of care, higher quality and more efficient use of resources. This will create an effective dialogue across all health, and where appropriate, social care, professionals.

To support GP consortia in their commissioning decisions, the Government will also create an independent NHS Commissioning Board. The Commissioning Board will set commissioning guidelines based on the quality standards which have already been developed by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence for dementia.

General Practitioners: Finance

Dr Thérèse Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to extend his Department's funding for GPs' local enhancement services after March 2011. [16869]

Mr Simon Burns: Local enhanced services are commissioned by primary care trusts (PCTs) to meet local health needs and are funded from PCT revenue allocations. Therefore, decisions on funding of local enhanced services in 2011-12 are a matter for individual PCTs based on local priorities and not the Department of Health.

Health Services: Co-operatives

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on promoting locally-owned health mutual organisations. [17080]

Paul Burstow: The creation and expansion of mutuals, co-operatives, charities and social enterprises is a priority for the Government. The Government want to enable these groups to have much greater involvement in the running of public services.

The Government have made a commitment to give public sector workers a new right to form employee-owned co-operatives and bid to take over the services they deliver.

Health Services: North Yorkshire

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what arrangements were made to consult GP practices before the decision to close minor injury services at the Lambert Hospital in Thirsk and St Monica's Hospital in Easingwold was *(a)* taken and *(b)* made public; [17088]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect on GP practices of the planned closures of minor injury services at *(a)* the Lambert Hospital in Thirsk and *(b)* St Monica's Hospital in Easingwold. [17103]

Mr Simon Burns: This is a local matter for North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust. The Secretary of State has made no assessment of the effect on general practitioner (GP) practices of the planned closures of minor injuries units at the Lambert Hospital, Thirsk, and St Monica's Hospital, Easingwold.

This Government are committed to devolving power to local communities—to the people, patients, general practitioners and councils who are best placed to determine the nature of their local national health service services.

To this end, the Secretary of State for Health has outlined new, strengthened criteria that he expects decisions on national health service service changes to meet. They must:

focus on improving patient outcomes;

consider patient choice;

have support from GP commissioners; and

be based on sound clinical evidence.

The Department expects all reconfiguration schemes to be informed by local decisions, driven by clinical professionals, and grounded in firm clinical evidence by recognising the views of the community.

Health Services: Rural Areas

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what provision the NHS funding formula makes for serving sparsely populated rural communities. [17224]

Mr Simon Burns: The independent Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation (ACRA), which oversees the development of the primary care trust (PCT) revenue allocation funding formula, has considered the impact of rurality on a number of occasions and concluded that the only adjustment necessary is the Emergency Ambulance Cost Adjustment, to reflect the additional cost of providing emergency ambulance services in rural areas. No further adjustment is made to reflect rurality.

ACRA is to continue to provide independent advice to the Secretary of State on the funding formula for the allocation of national health service resources during the transition to the NHS Commissioning Board. ACRA has been asked to consider looking again at the impact of rurality on unavoidable differences on costs as part of its future work programme.

Heart Diseases: Medical Equipment

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what guidance his Department has issued to procurement hubs on the weighting to be applied to price when commissioning a contract for the supply of implantable cardiac devices; [16654]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of patients in each strategic health authority who received heart pacemakers in the last five years. [16655]

Mr Simon Burns: No guidance has been issued by the Department to procurement hubs on the weighting to be applied to price when commissioning a contract for the supply of implantable cardiac devices.

The estimated number of patients in each strategic health authority (SHA) who have received heart pacemakers in the last five years are in the following table.

This is the count of finished consultant episodes where there were main/secondary procedure mentions of "insertion of a pacemaker" 2004-05 to 2008-09, by SHA of residence.

Activity in English national health service hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

	Insertion of pacemaker	
SHA of residence	*2005-06*	*2004-05*
Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire SHA	1,400	1,315
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire SHA	1,044	821
Essex SHA	815	724
North West London SHA	947	815
North Central London SHA	525	540
North East London SHA	578	540
South East London SHA	625	628
South West London SHA	741	642
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear SHA	711	685
County Durham and Tees Valley SHA	530	524
North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire SHA	897	812
West Yorkshire SHA	917	874
Cumbria and Lancashire SHA	961	931
Greater Manchester SHA	1,167	1,066
Cheshire and Merseyside SHA	1,254	1,215
Thames Valley SHA	1,098	982
Hampshire and Isle of Wight SHA	1,069	975
Kent and Medway SHA	911	853
Surrey and Sussex SHA	1,805	1,519
Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire SHA	1,095	977
South West Peninsula SHA	1,772	1,456
Dorset and Somerset SHA	1,181	957
South Yorkshire SHA	747	741
Trent SHA	1,300	1,367
Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland SHA	896	873
Shropshire and Staffordshire SHA	509	570
Birmingham and the Black Country SHA	1,079	1,038
West Midlands South SHA	696	584
Wales	217	180
Scotland	25	22
England—not otherwise specified	9	6
Foreign (incl. Isle of Man and Channel Islands)	141	170
Unknown	46	34
Northern Ireland	3	3

	Insertion of pacemaker		
SHA of residence	*2008-09*	*2007-08*	*2006-07*
North East SHA	1,573	1,462	1,291
North West SHA	4,900	4,185	3,839
Yorkshire and the Humber SHA	3,135	2,749	2,610
East Midlands SHA	2,281	2,049	2,063
West Midlands SHA	2,701	2,437	2,284
East of England SHA	3,422	3,473	3,271
London SHA	3,493	3,110	3,245
South East Coast SHA	2,919	2,753	2,619
South Central SHA	2,311	2,244	2,098
South West SHA	5,301	4,739	3,986
Wales	383	325	200
Scotland	14	18	13
England—not otherwise specified	8	10	4
Foreign (incl. Isle of Man and Channel Islands)	147	150	140
Unknown	46	129	56
Northern Ireland	1	4	2

Notes:

1. Finished Consultant Episode (FCE)—A FCE is a continuous period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. FCEs are counted against the year in which they end. Figures do not represent the number of different patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the same stay in hospital or in different stays in the same year.

2. Number of episodes with a (named) main or secondary procedure:

The number of episodes where the procedure (or intervention) was recorded in any of the 24 (12 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and four prior to 2002-03) procedure fields in a Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) record. A record is only included once in each count, even if the procedure is recorded in more than one procedure field of the record. Note that more procedures are carried out than episodes with a main or secondary procedure. For example, patients under going a 'cataract operation' would tend to have at least two procedures—removal of the faulty lens and the fitting of a new one—counted in a single episode.

3. OPCS-4 Codes:

The OPCS-4 codes used to identify the procedures are:

(I). Insertion of pacemaker

K60.1 Implantation of intravenous cardiac pacemaker system NEC
K60.5 Implantation of intravenous single chamber cardiac pacemaker system
K60.6 Implantation of intravenous dual chamber cardiac pacemaker system
K60.7 Implantation of intravenous biventricular cardiac pacemaker system
K60.8 Other specified cardiac pacemaker system introduced through vein
K60.9 Unspecified cardiac pacemaker system introduced through vein
K61.1 Implantation of cardiac pacemaker system NEC
K61.5 Implantation of single chamber cardiac pacemaker system
K61.6 Implantation of dual chamber cardiac pacemaker system
K61.7 Implantation of biventricular cardiac pacemaker system
K61.8 Other specified other cardiac pacemaker system
K61.9 Unspecified other cardiac pacemaker system

4. Assessing growth through time:

HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. Changes to the figures over time need to be interpreted in the context of improvements in data quality and coverage (particularly in earlier years), improvements in coverage of independent sector activity (particularly from 2006-07) and changes in NHS practice. For example, apparent reductions in activity may be due to a number of procedures which may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and so no longer include in admitted patient HES data.

5. SHA/PCT of residence:

The strategic health authority (SHA) or primary care trust (PCT) containing the patient's normal home address. This does not necessarily reflect where the patient was treated as they may have travelled to another SHA/PCT for treatment.

6. Data quality:

HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and PCTs in England and from some independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

HIV Infection: Health Services

David Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment his Department has made of the effects of needle exchange and drug substitution therapy programmes on levels of HIV infection amongst injecting drug users. [17313]

Anne Milton: The overall prevalence of HIV among injecting drug users (IDUs) is currently estimated to be 1.5% in the United Kingdom—one of the lowest rates among this population in the western world.

The introduction of needle exchange, opioid substitution therapy and abstinence based drug treatment in the 1980s, and the sustained investment in these services since then will have contributed to this.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) guidance on needle and syringe programmes (NSPs) states that, overall, needle and syringe programmes were cost effective in reducing HIV incidence and prevalence among IDUs.

The United Nations Offices of Drug Control are clear that countries that do not commission methadone/needle exchange programmes have substantially higher rates of HIV and Hepatitis C infection among injecting drug users than the UK.

Sources:

Health Protection Agency, Unlinked Anonymous Monitoring Survey of Injecting Drug Users in contact with specialist services. (July 2010) NICE, Needle and syringe programmes: guidance, February 2010

Hospitals: Parking

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received on parking charges at hospitals in England; and if he will make a statement. [17231]

Mr Simon Burns: Before responding to the consultation on national health service car parking charges, departmental officials met with representatives of Macmillan Cancer Support, the Patients Association, *Which?* and Age UK.

Since the publication of the response to that consultation, on 16 September 2010, the Department has received at least 40 communications about NHS car parking charges.

Hospitals: Waiting Lists

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many finished consultant episodes there were in NHS facilities in the last 12 months. [17953]

Mr Simon Burns: Provisional Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data show that there were 16,924,370 finished consultant episodes in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector in the 12 months from July 2009 to June 2010.

Provisional HES monthly data are published every month at:

www.hesonline.nhs.uk/Ease/servlet/ContentServer?siteID=1937&categoryID=1132

Lister Hospital

Stephen McPartland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* procedure and *(b)* timetable is for approval of the outline business case for phase 4 of the Lister Hospital, Stevenage; and if he will make a statement. [17901]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department received the outline business case for phase 4 of redevelopment of the Lister Hospital, Stevenage on 5 October and is carrying out a review to ensure that the scheme is affordable, deliverable and demonstrates value for money. After the Department's review is completed, the scheme will require HM Treasury's approval before a recommendation for approval can be made to proceed to full business case. A decision will be announced in due course.

Lung Diseases

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his Department's strategy is for reducing the number of deaths resulting from lung diseases; and if he will make a statement. [17786]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department is committed to improving outcomes for patients. For lung disease the two main areas the Department is focussing on are lung cancer and the respiratory diseases chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and adult asthma.

We have announced a £10.75 million campaign for three of the biggest killer cancers, including lung cancer, to raise awareness of signs and symptoms and encourage people with persistent symptoms to present to their general practitioner. Being diagnosed at an early stage of the disease increases the chance of being successfully treated for lung cancer.

With respiratory disease the Department is currently reviewing the responses received to its consultation on a strategy for services for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in England, which contained a chapter on adult asthma, and will make an announcement in due course.

Medical Records: Databases

David Mowat: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has assessed the merits of automatically including a patient's advance decision to refuse treatment on a summary care record. [16691]

Mr Simon Burns: The main recommendation of the recent review of the content of the summary care record (SCR), led by Sir Bruce Keogh, was that the core information should only include a patient's medications, allergies, and adverse reactions. Any additional information beyond this should only be added to the SCR with the explicit consent of the patient. This would therefore preclude the automatic inclusion of a patient's advance decision.

Medicine: Education

Nick de Bois: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to ensure that all graduates leaving medical school have a foundation programme training post. [17549]

Anne Milton: Not all graduates leaving United Kingdom medical schools apply for a foundation programme training post.

The four UK Health Departments fund sufficient foundation programme training places to meet the expected output of UK medical schools. However, applicants from non-UK medical schools are also able to apply.

To date, all eligible applicants to the foundation programme have secured a place. However, for the programmes commencing in 2011 there has been a large number of applicants from non-UK medical schools, which means for the first time there are more applicants to the foundation programme than there are places.

There is an agreed contingency plan for managing the situation.

The latest predictions from the UK foundation programme office are that all eligible applicants to the foundation programme in 2011 will be offered a foundation programme post as places become available due to failed finals and graduates deciding to do other things.

Mental Health Services

Paul Maynard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what advice services are available to support people with mental health problems who are experiencing financial hardship. [16637]

Paul Burstow: People with mental health problems can get health advice and help from NHS Direct

www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk/

There is a range of help available for people in financial hardship. The Government provide support for several of these sources, including Citizen's Advice Bureau and the National Debtline

www.nationaldebtline.co.uk/

These sources of financial advice refer their clients to NHS Direct when appropriate and vice versa.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many community treatment orders were made under the Mental Health Act 1983 in respect of people in each ethnic group in the last five years; [17782]

(2) how many compulsory inpatient admissions were made under the Mental Health Act 1983 in respect of people in each ethnic group in the last five years; [17783]

(3) how many patients in each ethnic group were in contact with secondary mental health services in the last five years. [17784]

Paul Burstow: The information requested about community treatment orders and contact with secondary mental services has been placed in the Library. Further information and the statistics that we have on compulsory inpatient admissions are available on the NHS Information Centre's website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/supporting-information/mental-health/nhs-specialist-mental-health-services/mental-health-bulletin/mhmds-2006-2009-annual-data-tables

Minor Injuries Units

Anne Marie Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received on the opening times of minor injury units. [17610]

Mr Simon Burns: We are aware of no recent representations on the opening times of minor injury units, other than that made by my hon. Friend during the Westminster Hall debate on accident and emergency services on 14 September. South West Strategic Health Authority has been made aware of my hon. Friend's concerns.

Neuromuscular Care: Health Services

George Hollingbery: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps have been taken to implement the March 2010 recommendation of the South Central Commissioning Group to fund a neuromuscular care advisor for families in Hampshire; on what date he expects an appointment to be made; and what the reason is for the time taken to make the appointment. [16619]

Paul Burstow: This is a matter for the South Central Strategic Health Authority (SHA). The SHA has advised that it will write to the hon. Member to respond to the specific points he raises.

NHS Speech and Language Services

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much funding his Department allocated to NHS speech and language services in the latest period for which figures are available; [17951]

(2) how many people aged *(a)* 18 and under *(b)* 19 to 40, *(c)* 40 to 60 and *(d)* over 60 years were seen by NHS speech and language services in the latest period for which figures are available. [17952]

Anne Milton: The activity data returns on speech and language therapy were discontinued from April 2005. The available information is published in "NHS Speech and Language Therapy Services, Summary Information for 2004-05, England". This document has already been placed in the Library.

Funding for speech and language therapy services is provided within the national health service budget and decided by local NHS organisations.

NHS: Accountability

Dr Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what statutory duties are placed upon *(a)* strategic health authorities and *(b)* primary care trusts; and who will be responsible for discharging such duties in 2014. [16744]

Mr Simon Burns: Strategic health authorities (SHAs) and primary care trusts (PCTs) have a large number of legal duties. Most of these are statutory functions of the Secretary of State that have been delegated through regulations and directions under the National Health Service Act 2006.

Broadly, PCTs are currently responsible for the commissioning of most national health service services, while SHAs act as regional headquarters of the NHS, providing management and direction to PCTs and NHS trusts.

The White Paper "Equity and excellence: Liberating the NHS", which proposed that SHAs and PCTs should be abolished, gave a commitment to establish more autonomous NHS institutions, with transparent duties and responsibilities. It proposed that, in future, consortia of general practices should be responsible for commissioning the majority of NHS services, supported by a national NHS Commissioning Board. PCTs' current responsibilities for public health improvement would transfer to local authorities.

The Government intend to bring detailed proposals before Parliament later this year in a Health Bill.

NHS: Consultants

Liz Kendall: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the NHS spent on management on management consultants in the latest year for which figures are available. [16625]

Mr Simon Burns: The figures for consultancy services, from the published NHS (England) Summarised Accounts 2009-10, are as follows:

	£000
Strategic health authorities	52,734
Primary care trusts	261,147
NHS trusts	141,332

The Department does not collect data from NHS foundation trusts. Where an NHS trust obtains foundation trust status part way through any year, the data provided are only for the part of the year the organisation operated as an NHS trust.

The definition of consultancy services in the NHS Manual for Accounts was revised in 2009 to ensure consistency with Cabinet Office definitions for central Government. Consequently, the definition includes the provision of advice far a broad range of services including, legal, information technology, property and human resources.

NHS: Debts

Mark Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much debt incurred by each *(a)* hospital and *(b)* primary care trust has been written off by the NHS in each of the last five years. [16565]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department does not collect accounting information from individual hospitals. The information requested has been placed in the Library in respect of primary care trusts and national health service trusts.

Mark Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the monetary value of debt recovered by debt collectors on behalf of the NHS in respect of each *(a)* hospital and *(b)* primary care trust in each of the last five years; [16566]

(2) how much each *(a)* hospital and *(b)* primary care trust has paid to debt collectors in each of the last five years. [16567]

Mr Simon Burns: The information is not held centrally.

Mark Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much money is owed to the NHS by each *(a)* hospital and *(b)* primary care trust in unpaid invoices in each of the last five years. [16568]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department does not collect accounting information from individual hospitals. The information for primary care trusts and national health service trusts for the last three years (2007-08 to 2009-10) has been placed in the Library. Information for 2005-06 and 2006-07 is not available in the format requested.

NHS: Finance

Dr Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the expected level of savings that will arise from the implementation of the proposals contained in the NHS White Paper in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14 and *(d)* 2014-15. [16740]

Mr Simon Burns: The White Paper "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS" laid out proposals for fundamental changes to the ways that the national health service is structured and run. The Government have said that the NHS management costs of the new system must be 46% lower than the current system, and that the overall administration costs of the health service must be 33% lower, by the end of the next spending review period (2014-15).

The precise detail of these savings will not be known until the new organisations that will underpin the new system have been designed in more detail.

NHS: Manpower

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many full-time equivalent staff were employed by the NHS as *(a)* hospital consultants, *(b)* general practitioners, *(c)* registered nurses, *(d)* administrative and clerical workers, *(e)* managers, *(f)* executive directors, *(g)* managers involved in commissioning at primary care trusts, care trusts and health authorities, *(h)* other staff supporting managers involved in commissioning at primary care trusts, care trusts and health authorities, *(i)* finance staff and *(j)* managers and support staff directly involved in performance management in each year since 1995. [16666]

Mr Simon Burns: The following tables show full-time equivalent staff employed by the NHS for the aforementioned staff groups *(a)* to *(e)* as at 30 September 1995 to 2009. Information for September 2010 will not be published until March 2011.

The information for staff groups *(f)* to *(j)* is not collected centrally.

NHS hospital and community health service and general practice work force as at 30 September each year

Full-time equivalents

	1995	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*
Hospital consultants	17,900	18,603	19,661	20,432	21,410	22,186	23,064
All general practitioners (GPs) (excluding retainers)[1 2 3]	27,489	27,550	27,660	27,848	28,033	28,154	28,439
Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff[3]	246,822	248,070	246,011	247,238	250,651	256,276	266,171

NHS hospital and community health service and general practice work force as at 30 September each year

Full-time equivalents

	1995	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*
GP practice nurses[1]	9,745	9,821	10,082	10,359	10,689	10,711	11,163
Clerical and administrative staff	180,477	179,923	180,201	181,845	186,890	191,792	201,707
Central functions	62,686	60,920	60,643	60,693	63,190	65,965	69,277
Hotel, property and estates	10,986	10,173	9,454	8,833	8,551	7,375	7,579
Scientific, therapeutic and technical support	9,794	9,909	9,778	9,843	9,844	10,077	10,428
Clinical support	47,289	49,005	49,729	51,263	52,924	56,207	60,346
Ambulance support	2,369	2,279	2,255	2,327	2,391	2,639	2,687
GP admin and clerical staff[1]	47,353	47,637	48,341	48,887	49,990	49,529	51,390
Manager and senior manager staff	20,049	20,588	21,434	21,854	23,378	24,253	26,285
Manager	13,618	13,442	14,090	14,112	14,786	15,664	16,911
Senior manager	6,431	7,146	7,343	7,741	8,592	8,589	9,374

Full-time equivalents

	2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Hospital consultants	24,756	26,341	28,141	29,613	30,619	31,430	32,679	34,654
All general practitioners (GPs) (excluding retainers)[1,2,3]	28,740	29,777	30,762	31,683	33,121	33,345	33,730	35,770
Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff[4]	279,287	291,925	301,877	307,744	307 447	307,628	315,410	322,425
GP practice nurses[1]	11,998	12,967	13,563	13,793	14,616	14,554	13,962	13,582
Clerical and administrative staff	210,422	223,957	236,628	245,045	241,062	237,047	246,349	261,734
Central functions	72,730	78,784	85,498	90,387	87 856	86,772	92,106	101,983
Hotel, property and estates	7,468	7,709	7,655	7,599	6,246	5,960	6,035	6,204
Scientific, therapeutic and technical support	11,503	12,464	13,140	12,601	11 711	11,042	10,643	10,763
Clinical support	64,656	70,053	74,205	78,090	77,309	76,656	81,977	87,862
Ambulance support	2,620	2,697	2,840	2,851	2,826	2,938	3,475	3,689
GP admin and clerical staff[1]	51,444	52,250	53,290	53,517	55,116	53,679	52,112	51,233
Manager and senior manager staff	30,914	33,810	36,007	37,549	35,041	34,955	37,937	42,509
Manager	19,494	22,195	24,642	26,568	24,782	24,873	26,854	29,924
Senior manager	11,420	11,614	11,365	10,981	10,258	10,082	11,083	12,585

Notes:

[1] GP data as at 1 October 1995-99, 30 September 2000-09.

[2] GP retainers were first collected in 1999 and have been omitted for comparability purposes.

[3] GP full-time equivalent (FTE) data for 1999 to 2005 have been estimated using the results from the 1992-93 GMP Workload Survey. From 2006 onwards GP FTE has been collected and therefore may not be fully comparable with previous years; we are currently evaluating the accuracy of this data.

[4] Nursing and midwifery figures exclude students on training courses leading to a first qualification as a nurse or midwife. Bank staff are included.

Sources:

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care General and Personal Medical Services Statistics

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census

NHS: Per Capita Costs

Dr Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent estimate is of health spending per capita per year. [17030]

Mr Simon Burns: Health spend per capita in England was £1,748 in 2008-09.

Source:

HM Treasury Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses 2010 Tables 9.11 and 9.15.

NHS: Redundancy

Liz Kendall: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS staff have participated in the mutually agreed resignation scheme; and what the average redundancy payout has been since its introduction. [16627]

Mr Simon Burns: The national mutually agreed resignation scheme was launched on 2 September 2010. It is open to staff for a time-limited period. The national scheme closes at the end of October/early November. It will not be until toward the end of the year, when the scheme is evaluated, that the total numbers and costs are known.

Liz Kendall: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the average cost to the public purse of making redundant *(a)* managers, *(b)* senior managers and *(c)* non-clinical staff employed under the NHS Agenda for Change terms and conditions. [16628]

Mr Simon Burns: Redundancy payments for national health service staff depend on factors such as earnings and length of service. As such, the exact costs of redundancies depend on the characteristics of the affected staff.

Consideration of earnings and length of service data suggests it is reasonable to assume redundancy costs of 1.5 times average earnings for planning purposes.

This equates to average potential costs in the order of:

£90,000 per full-time equivalent for managers and senior managers;

£35,000 per full-time equivalent for administrative and clerical staff; and

£40,000 per full-time equivalent for maintenance and works staff.

Dr Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the cost to the public purse of redundancies arising from the implementation of the structural reorganisation proposed in the NHS White Paper. [16741]

Mr Simon Burns: The White Paper "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS" laid out proposals for fundamental changes to the ways that the national health service is structured and run. The Department has not yet produced robust costings of the redundancies arising from the implementation of the structural reorganisation. This is because the precise costs of the transition to the new system, including the costs of redundancies, will not be known until the new organisations that will underpin the new system have been designed in more detail.

A number of consultations on how the new organisations should be designed have been published, and once the results of this are known we will publish the costs of moving to the new system in an Impact Assessment. However, we have made it clear that the running costs of the new system will be lower than the running costs of the current system.

NHS: Standards

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health by what means his Department plans to measure health outcomes for patients following the removal of NHS targets. [17031]

Mr Simon Burns: The White Paper Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS set out that the Secretary of State for Health would hold the new NHS Commissioning Board to account for the delivery of better health outcomes through a NHS Outcomes Framework. This framework will include a set of around 30 indicators which will be used to measure the progress of the national health service as a whole in delivering better outcomes through the treatment activity for which it is responsible. Information against the indicators within the framework will be made publicly available.

More details on the proposals are set out in the consultation document Transparency in outcomes - a framework for the NHS. The 12-week consultation period on the proposals closed on Monday 11 October 2010.

NHS: Training

Nick de Bois: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations he has received on the Foundation Programme application process for those applying for August 2011 entry. [16635]

Anne Milton: Two letters have been received from the British Medical Association. No other representations have been received from stakeholders groups or members of the public.

Recruitment to the Foundation Programme in 2011 has been discussed at the Medical Education England Medical Programme Board and a press release was issued by the UK Foundation Programme Office on 10 September explaining the position.

The latest predictions from the UK Foundation Programme Office are that eligible applicants to the Foundation Programme in 2011 will secure a place.

North of Tyne Primary Care Trust: Per Capita Costs

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the per capita health allocation was for North of Tyne primary care trust in the latest period for which figures are available; and whether he has made an estimate of the effect on the per capita allocation for North of Tyne primary care trust of the application of the Combined Age Related Needs and Additional formula. [17153]

Mr Simon Burns: The following table provides the allocation per head received by North Tyneside primary care trust (PCT) for the years 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11, and the England averages for those years.

£

	2008-09	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
North Tyneside PCT	1,541	1,672	1,754
England average	1,449	1,540	1,612

Note:
Allocations are not always comparable between years because of changes to baseline funding.
Source:
Finance, Planning and Allocations Division, Department of Health.

The Combining Age Related and Additional Needs (CARAN) formula replaced the Allocation of Resources to English Areas formula as the needs component for the prescribing and hospital and community health services elements of the formula (with the exception of mental health) used for PCT revenue target allocations from 2009-10. It is estimated that the impact of this formula change alone would have been to move North Tyneside PCT further above or less below target by 1.8%. When combined with changes to other components of the formula the overall effect was to move the PCT from at target at the end of 2008-09 to 1.5%, under target at the start of 2009-10.

However, the actual allocations PCTs receive depend on a combination of both the distance from the target set by the funding formula, and how quickly PCTs are moved towards their target allocation (the pace-of-change policy). Therefore, it is not possible to distinguish the individual impact of any formula change, including CARAN, on PCTs' actual per capita allocations.

Nurses

Stephen Mosley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to implement the recommendations of the report on High impact for nursing and midwifery: the essential collection by the NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement. [16890]

Anne Milton: The NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement developed the High Impact actions for Nursing and Midwifery as the nursing and midwifery response to the quality, innovation, productivity and prevention (QIPP) challenge against eight key areas. The Institute's The Essential Collection is the subsequent examples of how the national health service has already responded. The NHS has taken these eight areas and identified ways of improving quality whiles reducing costs.

The Essential Collection shows how nurses and midwives can deliver high quality care across these key areas, demonstrating the potential for even greater contribution to prevention, innovation, productivity and best use of resources. The Department along with the strategic health authorities will be co-producing a set of outcome indicators to measure achievements against these High Impact Actions in response to Government policy. This work will be available in due course.

Much of the High Impact Action work is already embedded across the NHS with support from the Department, and three of the areas: pressure ulcers, falls and urinary tract infections, have featured in the recent consultation Liberating the NHS: Transparency in Outcomes.

Nursing Times will be hosting the 'High Impact Actions: the Essential Collection' conference on the 9 December. This event is being developed in association with the NHS Institute.

Nurses: Training

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for the *(a)* number and *(b)* location of approved nurse training places to current providers in the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [17188]

Mr Simon Burns: It is currently the responsibility of strategic health authorities (SHAs) to commission nurse education and training. SHAs base their workforce planning on assessment of their local NHS organisations. It is the local national health service organisations that are best placed to determine workforce needs, including demand and location of approved nurse training programmes.

The White Paper "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS", a copy of which has already been placed in the Library, signalled a new approach to workforce planning, education and training. Individual health care providers will be responsible for developing their current workforce by promoting staff engagement and partnership working, ensuring continued professional development and providing support to improve staff health and wellbeing.

Oesophageal Cancer

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to improve preventative health care in respect of oesophageal cancer. [17954]

Paul Burstow: Lifestyle behaviours such as smoking, the harmful use of alcohol, drug misuse, poor diet and nutrition, being overweight and physical inactivity are acknowledged risk factors for a number of chronic diseases and conditions such as oesophageal cancer.

Later this year, the Department will publish a public health White Paper setting out details of its strategy for improving public health and reducing the risk factor associated with developing conditions such as oesophageal cancer.

Pharmacy

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of existing guidelines on granting pharmacy and dispensing contracts. [17223]

Mr Simon Burns: The NHS (Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 2005, as amended, set out the requirements for granting applications to join a primary care trust's pharmaceutical list. These are regularly reviewed. A review of progress on reforms in England to the "Control of Entry" system for national health service pharmaceutical contractors was undertaken in 2006 and a report published later that year. Officials also have regular meetings with primary care trust representatives who are members of the Community Pharmacy Regulations and Guidance User Group.

The regulations are also being reviewed as part of the work of the Advisory Group on the NHS (Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations. The group is currently helping the Government devise revised market entry regulations based on pharmaceutical needs assessments. Progress on their work can be found at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Healthcare/Medicinespharmacyand industry/RegulationsAdvisoryGroup/index.htm

Respiratory System: Diseases

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospital bed days there were for *(a)* chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and *(b)* all respiratory diseases in (i) Gateshead and (ii) England in the latest period for which figures are available. [16838]

Mr Simon Burns: The most recent 'National Statistics' certified Hospital Episode Statistics data are for 2008-09.

For patients treated in Gateshead Primary Care Trust (PCT) (regardless of place of residence), there were 4,905 bed days with a primary diagnosis of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) (defined as ICD-10 codes J40 to J44 inclusive). For patients resident in Gateshead PCT (but treated anywhere in the English NHS), there were 4,612 bed days with a primary diagnosis of COPD. Overall, there were 878,218 bed days for this primary diagnosis in 2008-09.

For patients with a primary diagnosis of respiratory disease (defined as ICD-10 codes J00 to J99 inclusive), there were 23,807 bed days for patients treated in Gateshead PCT, or 24,075 bed days for patients resident in Gateshead PCT. Overall, there were 4,249,216 bed days for these primary diagnoses in 2008-09.

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will include a lung function test in the NHS health check. [16839]

Mr Simon Burns: The purpose of the NHS Health Check programme is to identify an individual's risk of heart disease, stroke, kidney disease and diabetes. The tests used in the NHS Health Check are based on economic modelling undertaken by the Department to ensure it is clinically and cost effective. We continue to keep the components of the NHS Health Check under review as new evidence emerges.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Older People

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment his Department has made of trends in the level of sexually transmitted infections in people over the age of 50 years; [16366]

(2) what recent steps he has taken to ensure that people over 50 years old have access to high-quality sexual health *(a)* information and *(b)* services. [17542]

Anne Milton: For a number of years, diagnosis of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in people aged over 44 years (data on those aged 50 and over are not separately published), attending genitourinary medicine (GUM) clinics in England have increased. However, diagnoses have increased in all age groups and young people aged 15 to 24 remain the group most affected by STIs.

For HIV, the age distribution of people living with this infection in the United Kingdom is changing, with older age-groups increasing both in number and proportion. In the UK in 2009, almost one in five individuals accessing HIV-related care were aged 50 years and older, compared to one in seven individuals in 2005 and one in 10 in 2000. This increase is partly explained by the improved life expectancy of adults infected in their 20s, 30s and 40s, as well as those diagnosed soon after infection in the over 50s.

It is for local areas to decide which information and services should be commissioned to meet the needs of their local populations. However, quick access to GUM services is important to reduce the spread of infections and we are seeing more people coming forward for testing. In May 2005, only 45% were offered an appointment to be seen within 48 hours. In July 2010, 99.9% were offered an appointment to be seen within 48 hours. This means that more people are being tested and therefore having infections detected, including those aged over 50. It also means that more people than ever before are getting the information and advice they need.

We know that more needs to be done to ensure all people regardless of age get the right information and advice at the right time to make responsible choices, and we are considering how we can tackle these issues. Later this year we will publish the Public Health White Paper which will set out a cross-government strategy for public health and plans for the new public health service.

The following six tables show the new diagnoses for STI in the aged 50 and above for HIV and 45 and above for STIs.

Number and proportion of individuals living with diagnosed HIV aged = 50 years accessing HIV-related care in the UK and England, 2000-09

	England			UK		
	Individuals accessing HIV care aged =50 years (number)	*Individuals accessing HIV care (number)*	*Proportion of individuals aged =50 years (%)*	*Individuals accessing HIV care aged =50 years (number)*	*Individuals accessing HIV care (number)*	*Proportion of individuals aged =50 years (%)*
2000	2,234	20,376	11.0	2,432	22,570	10.8
2001	2,706	23,618	11.5	2,980	26,085	11.4
2002	3,335	28,231	11.8	3,652	30,944	11.8
2003	4,001	33,169	12.1	4,370	36,099	12.1
2004	4,819	37,964	12.7	5,294	41,303	12.8
2005	5,721	43,061	13.3	6,264	46,714	13.4
2006	6,724	47,691	14.1	7,334	51,698	14.2
2007	7,948	51,968	15.3	8,692	56,377	15.4
2008	9,445	56,333	16.8	10,284	61,110	16.8
2009	11,099	60,240	18.4	12,063	65,319	18.5

Note:

Excludes patients with age group not reported; these individuals represent <0.01% of records.

Source:

Health Protection Agency, Survey of Prevalent HIV Infections Diagnosed (SOPHID).

Number and proportion of new HIV diagnoses among individuals aged =50 years in the UK and England, 2000-09, data to end of June 2010

	England			UK		
	Individuals newly diagnosed aged =50 years (number)	*New HIV diagnoses (number)*	*Proportion of individuals newly diagnosed aged =50 years (%)*	*Individuals newly diagnosed aged =50 years (number)*	*New HIV diagnoses (number)*	*Proportion of individuals newly diagnosed aged =50 years (%)*
2000	298	3,721	8.0	314	3,933	8.0
2001	365	4,860	7.5	391	5,114	7.6
2002	414	5,995	6.9	442	6,304	7.0
2003	448	6,915	6.5	486	7,310	6.6
2004	535	7,292	7.3	590	7,784	7.6
2005	641	7,469	8.6	688	7,982	8.6
2006	591	7,096	8.3	639	7,592	8.4
2007	666	6,927	10	721	7,520	10
2008	758	6,820	11	812	7,388	11

Number and proportion of new HIV diagnoses among individuals aged =50 years in the UK and England, 2000-09, data to end of June 2010

	England			UK		
	Individuals newly diagnosed aged =50 years (number)	New HIV diagnoses (number)	Proportion of individuals newly diagnosed aged =50 years (%)	Individuals newly diagnosed aged =50 years (number)	New HIV diagnoses (number)	Proportion of individuals newly diagnosed aged =50 years (%)
2009	795	6,112	13	856	6,630	13

Notes:

1. Patients may live with HIV for many years before they are diagnosed. Therefore new diagnosis data do not necessarily reflect recently acquired infections.

2. Regions presented represent place of diagnosis, not place of residence. There is evidence that a substantial proportion of individuals are diagnosed outside of their PCT of residence.

Source:

Health Protection Agency; HIV and AIDS New Diagnoses and Death Database.

Diagnoses of chlamydia, gonorrhoea, syphilis, genital herpes and genital warts in patients over 44 years as a percentage of all diagnoses made in genitourinary medicine clinics in the UK, 2000-09

	Chlamydia		Gonorrhoea		Syphilis	
	%	Number/total	%	Number/total	%	Number/total
2000	1.8	1,054/60,211	4.5	906/19,986	17.3	53/307
2001	1.8	1,184/66,881	5.0	1,090/21,859	14.4	98/679
2002	1.7	1,302/76,656	4.9	1,171/23,775	15.4	173/1,125
2003	1.7	1,406/83,954	5.3	1,206/22,962	16.2	235/1,449
2004	1.8	1,629/91,346	5.6	1,142/20,298	17.2	332/1,927
2005	1.9	1,812/94,420	5.9	1,025/17,328	18.0	427/2,370
2006	2.0	1,990/97,510	6.6	1,115/16,891	18.0	415/2,303
2007	2.2	2,310/105,287	6.2	1,046/16,792	19.8	449/2,273
2008	2.3	2,500/107,123	6.5	953/14,669	22.1	442/1,998
2009	2.6	2,629/99,767	7.4	1,147/15,596	23.2	481/2,071

	Genital herpes		Genital warts	
	%	Number/total	%	Number/total
2000	8.0	1,266/15,914	4.5	2,696/59,758
2001	8.0	1,349/16,806	4.7	2,905/61,505
2002	8.3	1,432/17,259	4.7	2,937/62,982
2003	7.9	1,341/16,903	4.9	3,174/64,319
2004	8.5	1,419/16,694	4.9	3,320/67,251
2005	8.5	1,473/17,379	5.0	3,360/67,852
2006	8.5	1,646/19,254	5.1	3,568/69,700
2007	9.2	2,162/23,487	5.2	3,904/75,272
2008	10.0	2,600/26,094	5.7	4,422/78,156
2009	10.2	2,797/27,431	5.9	4,614/78,274

Diagnoses of chlamydia, gonorrhoea, syphilis, genital herpes and genital warts in patients over 44 years as a percentage of all diagnoses made in genitourinary medicine clinics in the UK, 2000-09

	Chlamydia		Gonorrhoea		Syphilis	
	%	(Number/total)	%	(Number/total)	%	(Number/total)
2000	1.7	1,148/67,173	4.6	977/21,292	18.0	59/327
2001	1.7	1,303/75,216	5.0	1,161/23,166	14.7	105/715
2002	1.7	1,452/86,127	5.0	1,248/25,009	15.9	189/1,186
2003	1.7	1,576/94,597	5.4	1,313/24,443	16.3	254/1,563
2004	1.8	1,824/103,137	5.6	1,231/21,845	17.0	371/2,176
2005	1.9	2,019/107,908	6.0	1,139/18,874	18.0	468/2,600
2006	2.0	2,211/112,013	6.6	1,223/18,480	18.0	462/2,565
2007	2.1	2,565/120,058	6.3	1,156/18,291	19.9	500/2,518
2008	2.3	2,756/122,276	6.6	1,061/16,121	22.0	507/2,304
2009	2.5	2,851/114,686	7.2	1,225/17,001	23.2	535/2,311

	Genital herpes		Genital warts	
	%	(Number/total)	%	(Number/total)
2000	7.8	1,372/17,590	4.5	3,139/70,414
2001	7.9	1,481/18,696	4.7	3,425/72,540
2002	8.2	1,577/19,187	4.6	3,440/74,013
2003	8.0	1,512/18,979	4.9	3,682/75,639
2004	8.4	1,583/18,815	4.9	3,862/79,093

	Genital herpes		*Genital warts*	
	%	*(Number/total)*	*%*	*(Number/total)*
2005	8.4	1,655/19,591	4.9	3,930/80,352
2006	8.5	1,843/21,605	5.0	4,144/82,592
2007	9.1	2,360/26,010	5.2	4,560/88,396
2008	9.9	2,854/28,807	5.6	5,111/91,503
2009	10.0	3,025/30,126	5.9	5,356/91,257

Notes:

1. The data available from GUMCAD/KC60 returns are for diagnoses made in GUM clinics only. Diagnoses made in other clinical settings, such as general practice, are not recorded.
2. The data available from the GUMCAD/KC60 statutory returns are the number of diagnoses made, not the number of patients diagnosed.
3. The information provided has been adjusted for missing clinic data.
4. Data are available only for the age group = 45 years.

Source:

Health Protection Agency, GUMCAD/KC60 returns. Date of data: 25 August 2010.

Sleep Apnoea

Steve McCabe: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department issues to GPs on raising awareness of the symptoms and risks for drivers of obstructive sleep apnoea. [17157]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department does not issue guidance to general practitioners on this matter.

Social Services: Finance

Chris White: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of adult social care in Warwickshire in *(a)* 2020, *(b)* 2040 and *(c)* 2060. [17426]

Paul Burstow: We have not made any estimates concerning the future cost of adult social care in Warwickshire.

The funding of care and support is one of the biggest challenges faced by society today. Because of our ageing population and advances in healthcare, we expect the number of older people and younger adults with a potential care need to increase by around 1.7 million over the next 20 years. This is double the present number receiving publicly funded care. Urgent reform is needed to ensure there is a fair partnership between the state and the individual in meeting care costs; help people protect their assets; and give individuals and carers more control over their care and support.

This debate has continued for too long without a solution. So the Government established the Commission on the Funding of Care and Support in July this year to make recommendations on how to achieve a fair and sustainable funding system for care and support for all adults in England. The Commission will present its recommendations to the Chancellor and the Secretary of State by the end of June 2011.

Social Services: Older People

Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will assess the effect on local authority health care budgets of the cost of provision of care services for the elderly in the next five years. [17528]

Paul Burstow: The Department routinely considers the impact of the needs of older people on local authority budgets.

Stem Cells

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had on the future of stem cell research *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in the East Midlands. [16925]

Mr Willetts: I have been asked to reply.

I have not had any recent discussions on the future of stem cell research, either nationally or in the east midlands. The Research Councils are the principal public funders of stem cell research. In keeping with the Haldane Principle, decisions about scientific priorities are left to those best placed to evaluate the scientific efficacy of proposed research.

I took part in the BioIndustry Association (BIA) Regenerative Medicine Industry Group press briefing on 22 September. The purpose of the day was to promote the benefits that translating the UK's world class stem cell research can bring to the nation's health and wealth.

Tobacco: Retail Trade

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Tewkesbury of 8 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 567W, on display of tobacco products, (1) if he will consult *(a)* retailers, *(b)* the Regulatory Policy Committee and *(c)* other affected parties on the options for the display of tobacco products in shops; [16414]

(2) if he will conduct an impact assessment in respect of options for the display of tobacco products in shops. [16415]

Anne Milton: Options for regulating the display of tobacco products were included in the 2008 publication 'Consultation on the future of tobacco control', to which the Department of Health received nearly 100,000 responses. In 2009 a further consultation was carried out on the detail of draft tobacco display regulations, 'Consultation on proposed tobacco control regulations for England (under the Health bill 2009)'. In the light of responses to that consultation, changes were made to the final regulations which aimed to reduce burdens on retailers while balancing their concerns with those of public health groups. During this process retailers, and other affected parties were consulted.

The Government, in discussions across Whitehall, are developing options around the display of tobacco in shops that seek to ensure an appropriate balance between public health priorities and burdens on business, taking into account the previous consultations and ongoing conversations with stakeholders.

No decision has yet been made but should there be a change to the current regulations (the Tobacco Advertising and Promotion (Display)(England) Regulations 2010) then a new impact assessment would be developed and consideration would be given to whether further consultation with retailers, the Regulatory Policy Committee, or other affected parties, the would be necessary.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Aimhigher Programme: Merseyside

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Aim Higher Greater Merseyside partnership in enabling young people to progress to higher education. [13748]

Mr Willetts: The Aimhigher programme is managed by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) and delivered through 42 partnerships of schools, colleges and universities in England. HEFCE ensures effective delivery of the programme through annual monitoring and approval of partnership delivery plans.

Analysis of data shows that, over the period 2004-09, the number of applicants from 11-18 schools in Greater Merseyside receiving intensive Aimhigher support increased more than twice as quickly as those from 11-18 schools receiving less Aimhigher support. Over the same period, accepted applicants from 11-18 schools receiving intensive Aimhigher support rose more than twice as quickly as those from 11-18 schools receiving less Aimhigher support. This analysis is not able to separate out the effect of Aimhigher from that of other factors.

Apprentices

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding his Department has provided to the Apprenticeship Ambassador Network in each year since its inception; and if he will make a statement. [16893]

Mr Hayes: The following table shows the funding provided to the Apprenticeship Ambassador Network (AAN) each year since its inception in 2006.

Financial year	*Full year spend (£)*
2006-07	[1]175,596
2007-08	313,262
2008-09	375,472
2009-10	311,165

[1] AAN was established part way through the 2006-07 financial year.

Note:

The budget for 2010-11 financial year is £300,000.

The Apprenticeship Ambassador Network provides feedback to the Government on issues which affect the quality and effectiveness of apprenticeships; and as ambassadors, encourages the business community, especially small and medium-sized enterprises, to offer apprenticeships.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent representations he has received on reforming funding for apprenticeships for persons aged *(a)* 19 and over and *(b)* 25 and over; and if he will make a statement. [17971]

Mr Hayes: The Department's recent consultation on "A Simplified Further Education and Skills Funding System and Methodology" sought views on simplifying funding rates for post-19 provision including apprenticeship framework rates. Over 350 responses have been received to the consultation which closed on 14 October. This includes responses from representative organisations and key stakeholders across the sector.

In parallel our "Skills for sustainable growth: consultation on the future direction of skills policy" outlined our vision for skills and what we expect to be the key elements of a strategy for delivering it. Apprenticeships are an important element of our plans and we are currently considering over 120 responses received.

We expect to communicate the outcomes from both consultations this autumn.

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department operates an apprenticeship scheme. [17982]

Mr Davey: This Department does operate an apprenticeships scheme.

Broadband: Derbyshire

Andrew Bingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent estimate he has made of the proportion of homes which have access to *(a)* a dial-up internet connection, *(b)* broadband and *(c)* high-speed broadband in (i) Derbyshire and (ii) High Peak constituency. [17870]

Mr Vaizey: This Department has made no such estimate. However, Broadband Delivery UK is assessing current broadband provision at community level in its work on delivery of the Coalition Government's superfast broadband and universal broadband access commitments.

Business Link: Skipton

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many businesses operating in Skipton and Ripon constituency have *(a)* contacted, *(b)* applied for support and *(c)* received support from Business Link in each of the last five years. [17193]

Mr Prisk: Applications to Business Link for support are not recorded on a constituency basis. However, figures are available for the Craven and Harrogate local authority areas in North Yorkshire. Skipton is a parish within the Craven district and Ripon is a parish within the borough of Harrogate. The number of businesses accessing support from Business Link Yorkshire in the Craven and Harrogate local authority areas in each of the last five years is as follows:

Reporting period	*Number of businesses contacted Business Link*	*Number of businesses that received intensive assistance from an adviser*
April 2010 to September 2010	1,861	378
April 2009 to March 2010	7,721	808
April 2008 to March 2009	7,006	343
April 2007 to March 2008	5,713	326
April 2006 to March 2007	5,505	209

Other types of support received by SMEs via Business Link in the last five years are as follows:

	Innovation Vouchers[1]	*Events*[2]	*Skills*
April 2010 to September 2010	[4]—	1,346	To June 2010, 13 learners from 54 business were supported
April 2009 to March 2010	[4]—	3,232	554 learners from 201 businesses were supported with their skills needs by Business Link Yorkshire
April 2008 to March 2009	n/a	2,392	n/a
April 2007 to March 2008	n/a	n/a	n/a
April 2006 to March 2007	n/a	n/a	n/a

[1] £3,000 of financial support plus assistance in finding the right academic from the region's universities and knowledge institutions
[2] Offering free information and advice to businesses
[3] Training support
[4] 24 businesses in Harrogate and 12 in Craven have been awarded an Innovation Voucher since their launch in January 2009

Up to March 2008 the service provider was Business Link North Yorkshire and from April 2008 it was Y&H IDB Ltd. The service provider prior to April 2008 has now ceased trading and therefore it has not been possible to gather all the information requested.

Business: Co-ownership

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether officials of his Department provide information on co-ownership structures to businesses. [17242]

Mr Davey: The Department is currently examining the information made available on:

www.Businesslink.gov.uk

and through other channels, to ensure that businesses and other organisations are able to make appropriate choices about the legal forms and ownership structures that best suit their operations.

The Government are committed to encouraging new and existing businesses to consider the benefits of models which enable co-ownership and engagement by employees, by customers or by wider communities—while acknowledging that such models will not be appropriate for all businesses.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will review the financial performance of the co-owned sector at company level. [17244]

Mr Davey: The Department has already examined the available evidence, which suggests that business models which enable co-ownership, for example by employees and customers, can provide benefits in terms of business performance. It does not consider that a further review is necessary.

The Government are therefore committed to encouraging new and existing businesses to consider the benefits of such models—while acknowledging that they will not be appropriate for all businesses.

Business: Government Assistance

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent steps he has taken to increase access to finance for small businesses in Witham constituency. [17403]

Mr Prisk: The coalition Government have articulated their ambition to ensure the flow of credit to viable SMEs. Our consultation on business finance issues "Financing a private sector recovery" closed on 20 September, and received many responses from a wide range of firms, business representative bodies, individuals and investors. I am currently considering the Government's response which will be given shortly and which will feed into the forthcoming Growth White Paper. The Growth White Paper will set out the Government's strategy for promoting sustainable growth and creating a stable environment that enable businesses to grow with confidence.

There are various measures already in place to support access to finance for SMEs. I aim to continue to support and improve the diversity of sources and access to finance for SMEs that meet their needs. Such sources of finance available to SMEs including those in your constituency of Witham were announced by the Chancellor in the budget:

A £200 million extension to the Enterprise Finance Guarantee (EFG), to benefit around 2,000 extra small businesses. In total, the EFG will now support up to £700 million in bank lending to viable small businesses. As at 6 October 2010, 16 businesses in the constituency of Witham have been offered loans totalling £2.69 million, of which, 15 businesses have drawn down £2.65 million.

A new Enterprise Capital Fund to support small businesses with high growth potential—combining both Government and private sector funding.

Confirmation of a Growth Capital Fund, to provide funding of between £2 million and £10 million for small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs) with strong growth potential.

We are also shortly expecting recommendations from the banking industry taskforce, led by the British Bankers Association, which was announced in the Green Paper.

Business: Performance Standards

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will bring forward legislative proposals to *(a)* establish overall four band rating of a company's social and environmental performance and *(b)* place a duty on companies to indicate such ratings on the products they produce. [17240]

Mr Davey: We have no current plans to legislate in these areas.

Daresbury Science and Innovation Campus

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will assess the contribution of the Daresbury Science and Innovation Campus to the UK science base; and if he will make a statement. [17728]

Mr Willetts: The Daresbury Science and Innovation Campus was created in 2006 to build upon the science and technology facilities at the Daresbury Laboratory. The development of the campus has included the establishment of the Daresbury Innovation Centre for new businesses and the Cockcroft Institute, a world class centre for accelerator science. Over £20 million of investment has been secured to date by the campus' tenant companies.

In 2009, Daresbury won the UK Science Park Association (UKSPA) award of 'Outstanding Science Park'. The Science and Technology Facilities Council, the North West Development Agency and Halton borough council are currently seeking a commercial partner to develop the campus further.

Debts: Advisory Services

Paul Maynard: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will provide additional *(a)* guidance and *(b)* resources to citizens advice bureaux and other debt advisory services to deal with the rising numbers of people facing insolvency. [17563]

Mr Davey: Over the summer, Treasury officials undertook an internal review of Government support for debt advice to help support ministerial decisions in the context of the spending review. Officials have actively been seeking views and advice from other Government Departments and the debt advice sector, which includes Citizens Advice and other debt advice agencies to draw together evidence for the review. We want to ensure that the Government could in future secure the best possible value for taxpayers' money from any public support for debt advice.

In addition, I have launched a review of consumer credit and personal insolvency jointly with Mark Hoban and a call for evidence in support of the review was published on 15 October.

Departmental Communication

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what instructions have been issued by the private office of each Minister in his Department on the preparation of briefing, speeches and replies to official correspondence. [9657]

Mr Davey: The information requested has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Departmental Drinking Water

Nick de Bois: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department has spent on bottled water in each year since 2008. [16880]

Mr Davey: Since 2008 the Department spent the following on mains fed bottled water:

	£
2008	11,091
2009	10,825
2010[1]	10,692

[1] year to date

Departmental NDPBs

Joseph Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what progress he has made in reducing the number of non-governmental public bodies and executive agencies sponsored by his Department. [17347]

Mr Prisk: We are taking radical steps to reform the network of bodies sponsored by my Department. We have announced that we are abolishing 17 partner organisations, merging eight, reconstituting two as charities in the private sector, and giving further consideration to the future of nine more. Full details of all the changes to BIS partner organisations can be found at:

www.bis.gov.uk

To support this work the Government have announced a Public Bodies Bill, to give Ministers the power to abolish or merge public bodies, or transfer their functions to other bodies.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what progress he has made in reducing the number of non-departmental public bodies and executive agencies sponsored by his Department in the East of England. [17405]

Mr Davey: As part of the public bodies streamlining programme, regional development agencies, including the East of England Development Agency, will be abolished and functions which are to be retained will be transferred to central or local government or other bodies.

To support this work the Government have announced a Public Bodies Bill to give Ministers the power to abolish or merge public bodies, or transfer their functions to other bodies.

There are no plans to abolish or merge any other BIS-sponsored bodies based in the East of England.

The others are the Engineering Construction Industry Training Board, based in Hertfordshire, Construction Skills, based in King's Lynn and Official Receiver's offices in Cambridge, Ipswich, Southend and Norwich.

Departmental Responsibilities

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what plans he has for the future of his Department's automotive unit; [16761]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of his Department's automotive unit. [16762]

Mr Prisk: No specific assessment of the effectiveness of the Department's automotive unit has been made although I am aware of the high regard in which this and many other teams in BIS are held. The activities of all parts of the Department will be reviewed in the light of the outcome of the Spending Review to be announced on 20 October 2010.

East of England Development Agency: Great Yarmouth

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will take steps to ensure that the income from assets held in Great Yarmouth by the East of England Development Agency will be re-allocated to Great Yarmouth for development and regeneration purposes after the Agency is closed. [17861]

Mr Prisk: This Department is currently working with the East of England Development Agency to gather a full picture of all their assets and liabilities. No decisions have yet been made on the future of these assets. The Government's aim is to use funding for economic development as effectively as possible and to target resources where they are most needed. Consideration will be given to options for disposal, transfer, or retention of these assets consistent with the Government's commitment to localism.

Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme

Richard Harrington: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the monetary value is of guarantees *(a)* applied for and *(b)* granted under the Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme in the latest period for which figures are available. [17879]

Mr Prisk: Under the enterprise finance guarantee, as of 6 October 2010, almost 12,200 businesses have been offered loans with a value of £1.24 billion. Of which, over 10,400 businesses have drawn down loans totalling almost £1.05 billion.

The Department plays no role in the application or decision-making process. Businesses may apply for a loan from any one of the accredited participating lenders who will assess which form of lending, including an enterprise finance guarantee backed loan, is appropriate. We do not hold figures for those businesses which are instead offered a normal commercial loan, or are rejected for failing to meet the lender's commercial criteria.

A Government guarantee of up to 75% of the outstanding balance of the loan is payable to the lender in the event that a business defaults on their loan repayments.

Export Credit Guarantees

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether all applicants for Export Credits Guarantee Department support are informed of his Department's policy on child and forced labour. [17097]

Mr Davey: Applications for ECGD support that fall within the ambit of the OECD Council Recommendation on Common Approaches on the Environment and Officially Supported Export Credits (the Common Approaches) are screened by ECGD for potential environmental, social and human rights impacts, including potential use of harmful child and forced labour. This screening is undertaken in compliance with ECGD's published policy to comply with all international agreements which apply to the operations of export credit agencies, including the Common Approaches. The Common Approaches requires that relevant projects should meet international standards, usually those of the World Bank Group. The International Finance Corporation's Performance Standard 2 which covers Labour and Working Conditions addresses harmful child and forced labour issues. ECGD has published guidance on its website on the processes and factors in ECGD's consideration of applications. This guidance explains the applicability of the Common Approaches to the provision of its support for export contracts.

Further Education: Capital Investment

Bob Blackman: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many further education colleges he expects to receive capital funding from his Department in 2010-11. [17346]

Mr Hayes: The Skills Funding Agency has budgeted to support 288 colleges with capital funding during 2010-11. Support includes funding for projects completed during the year as well as those currently underway from both the mainstream FE capital fund and the recent £50 million renewal and enhanced renewal grant funds.

Further Education: Curriculum

Bob Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has to enable further education colleges to offer additional *(a)* degrees and *(b)* diploma level courses. [17561]

Mr Willetts: Further education colleges are a vital component of the higher education landscape, offering a range of higher education qualifications including diplomas, foundation degrees and degrees, and providing accessible learning to approximately 10% of students in the sector.

Enhancing the contribution of further education colleges to higher education is one of a number of institutional issues in the wake of Lord Browne's independent review of higher education and student finance which requires thorough debate and consultation. We intend therefore to publish a Higher Education White Paper with detailed proposals to which experts from the sector can react, leading, subject to Parliamentary time, to a Higher Education Bill in autumn 2011.

Further Education: Degrees

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with further education colleges and universities on the provision of degrees in further education colleges. [17685]

Mr Willetts: Ministerial colleagues and I have regular discussions with representatives of universities and colleges covering a wide range of policy interests, including the provision of higher education in further education colleges.

Further education colleges are a vital component of the higher education landscape, offering a range of higher education qualifications including diplomas, foundation degrees and degrees, and providing accessible learning to approximately 10% of students in the sector.

Further Education: Finance

Bob Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has for expenditure on further education college buildings in the next three years. [17290]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 14 October 2010]:* The Skills Funding Agency has budgeted to support 288 colleges with capital funding during 2010-11. Support includes funding for projects completed during the year as well as those currently under way from both the mainstream FE capital fund and the recent £50 million renewal and enhanced renewal grant funds. Capital funding beyond this period will be subject to the outcome of the comprehensive spending review.

Higher Education: Admissions

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the percentage change was in the number of students from low income backgrounds entering higher education between *(a)* 1980 and 1997 and *(b)* 1997 and 2010. [17314]

Mr Willetts: This information is not held centrally.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his most recent estimate is of the proportion of school leavers in low-participation neighbourhoods entering higher education. [17773]

Mr Willetts: Information on the proportion of school leavers from low participation neighbourhoods entering higher education is not available.

However, the latest available information from the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) estimates that 19% of young people (aged 18 or 19) from low participation neighbourhoods in England entered higher education in the 2009/10 academic year. This information is taken from the HEFCE report "Trends in young participation in higher education: core results for England" (2010/03), which was published in January of this year. The key findings of the report and the full report can be found at this link:

http://www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/hefce/2010/10_03/

Higher Education: Chester

Stephen Mosley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what percentage of school leavers in City of Chester constituency entered university in the last 12 months. [17741]

Mr Willetts: Information on the percentage of school leavers who progress to higher education is not available at constituency level, therefore local authority data have been provided as an alternative.

36% of pupils aged 15 in 2003/04 from maintained schools in Cheshire local authority progressed to higher education by age 19 in 2007/08.

Higher Education: Grants

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the monetary value is of the higher education teaching grant for 2010-11; and what the Barnett consequentials are of that grant in respect of the block grant to the Scottish Executive. [17735]

Mr Willetts: In the Secretary of State's Grant Letter to the Higher Education Funding Council for England of 24 June 2010, the level of teaching grant was £5,107 million for 2010-11. As this budget area is devolved to England, there is no consequence for the block grant to the Scottish Executive.

Higher Education: Overseas Students

Jesse Norman: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how many students from EU member states other than the UK received funding from the Government to attend a university in the UK in each year from 2005 to 2010; and what the cost to the public purse was of such funding in each such year; [16886]

(2) how many students from non-EU countries received funding from his Department to attend a university in the UK in each year from 2005 to 2010; and at what cost to the public purse in each such year. [16887]

Mr Willetts: The information is as follows:

Numbers of students

The following table presents the headcount number of undergraduate and taught postgraduate students attending higher education institutions in England who are funded by the English Government Departments via the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE). Note that fundable students domiciled outside the EU will all have a relevant connection to the EU, eg armed forces stationed overseas, diplomatic service.

2008/09 is the most recent year for which figures are currently available; figures for 2009/10 will be available in early 2011.

Number of fundable undergraduate and taught postgraduate students at higher education institutions in England, by domicile group (headcount, thousand, academic years 2005/06 to 2008/09)

Domicile	*2005/06*	*2006/07*	*2007/08*	*2008/09*
UK (E, W, S and NI)	1,338	1,344	1,334	1,267
EU (non-UK)	65	69	72	70
Overseas (non-EU, inc. islands)	10	11	10	8
Total	1,413	1,423	1,416	1,345

Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) data, via Higher Education Funding Council for England.

Funding for teaching

Total HEFCE recurrent grant for teaching, which also funds higher education studied in further education colleges and some postgraduate research courses is in the region of £5 billion per year. It is not possible to provide a precise breakdown of cost by domicile because HEFCE funding reflects the different costs of different modes, levels and price groups (ie classroom and laboratory based subjects). But if funding was distributed equally across these domicile groups according to the numbers of full-time equivalent student numbers, an estimate of the teaching grant costs of these groups would be:

HEFCE recurrent grant for teaching (£ million, cash terms, academic years 2005/06 to 2008/09, by domicile)

Domicile	*2005/06*	*2006/07*	*2007/08*	*2008/09*
UK (E, W, S and NI)	4,170	4,360	4,510	4,660
EU (non-UK)	220	250	270	280
Overseas (non-EU, inc. islands)	30	30	30	30
Total	4,420	4,630	4,820	4,970

Sources:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) data, via Higher Education Funding Council for England; and Department for Business and Innovation and Skills' (and predecessors) 'Grant Letters' to the Higher Education Funding Council for England.

Student support

Under EC law, European Union (EU) students are eligible to the same access to education as those from the member state. Tuition fee loans are paid directly to the higher education institution, not the student. EU nationals are generally eligible for tuition fee support only, provided that they have been ordinarily resident in the European economic area (EEA) or Switzerland for the three years prior to the first day of the first academic year of their course. Certain EC nationals and those from the wider EEA (Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein) who are exercising a treaty right to work in the UK (EEA migrant workers) may also be entitled to claim maintenance support in the form of grants and loans.

EU nationals have been eligible to apply for tuition fee loans since their introduction in academic year 2006/07. Borrowers do not become liable to repay until the April following graduation which means that the majority of EU students were not liable to repay until April 2010.

Tuition fee loans to EU students studying in England

Academic year	*Number of loans*	*Sum borrowed (£ million)*
2006/07	8,700	23.7
2007/08	15,600	44.5
2008/09 (provisional)	21,100	62.8

Source:
Student Loans Company

EU nationals who have been ordinarily resident in the UK and Islands for the three years prior to the first day of the first academic year of their course may also qualify for maintenance loans. In addition, certain EEA and Swiss migrant workers and specified family members, children of Swiss nationals and children of Turkish workers in the UK may be eligible for the full support package provided that they satisfy specific residence conditions.

Student support is not generally available to students from non-EU countries.

Internet: Wi-fi

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 14 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 804W, on the internet: wi-fi, if he will issue guidance to proprietors of premises offering wireless internet access on the provisions on illegal file-sharing in the Digital Economy Act 2010. [16669]

Mr Vaizey: We remain confident that the implementation of the initial obligations under the online infringement of copyright provisions in the Digital Economy Act 2010 will not cause undue difficulties for premises offering wireless internet access. We have said that there are simple and proportionate steps such bodies can adopt but I do not think that it would be appropriate for the Government to issue the guidance suggested. Different networks and local set-ups will call for different approaches and measures, and in our view the best source of authoritative advice will be the supplier of internet services to the premises.

Local Enterprise Partnerships

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his timetable is for the introduction of local enterprise partnerships; and if he will make a statement. [17400]

Mr Prisk: We received 58 outline proposals for local enterprise partnerships in response to the joint letter from the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, dated 29 June.

Ministers are currently examining the proposals in detail, looking at how they will support economic growth, before providing feedback to partnerships in due course. More details on local enterprise partnership policy will be set out in the White Paper on sub-national growth due to be published later in the autumn.

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many local enterprise partnerships he expects to be established. [17856]

Mr Prisk: The development of local enterprise partnerships is a bottom up process. No estimate has been made on the optimal number of LEPs to be established. We wish to enable partnerships to better reflect the natural economic geography of the areas they serve and hence to cover real functional economic and travel to work areas. In addition, we would expect that partnerships to be of sufficient size to be able to have a strategic oversight of the area covered.

Local Enterprise Partnerships: East of England

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many local enterprise partnership bids covering *(a)* all and *(b)* part of the East of England his Department has received. [17860]

Mr Prisk: No local enterprise partnership proposals have been submitted that cover the entire East of England region. Proposals received that cover part of and are contained within the East of England Region are:

East Anglia (Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, Suffolk and North Essex)

Norfolk

Hertfordshire

Proposals received that cover more than one region including the East of England are:

Greater Cambridge and Greater Peterborough

South East Midlands

Kent and Greater Essex

Mature Students: Bexley

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of mature students resident in Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency who are undertaking *(a)* part-time and *(b)* full-time degree courses. [17683]

Mr Willetts: The latest information from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) shows in the 2008/09 academic year, there were 225 part-time and 385 full-time mature (aged over 21) first degree enrolments at UK higher education institutions from Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency.

Figures for the 2009/10 academic year will be available in January 2011. The Department has recently received updated parliamentary constituency data therefore figures may not match those previously published. Figures exclude students studying degree courses in further education colleges as the Department does not hold these data at constituency level.

Motor Vehicles: Manufacturing Industries

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent representations he has received on the merits of research and development tax incentives for the car and motor manufacturing industries. [16909]

Mr Prisk: The automotive trade association (Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders) and a number of companies have discussed R&D tax incentives for the automotive sector with this Department recently. Taxation is, of course, a matter for HM Treasury.

Overseas Trade: Philippines

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent representations he has received on trade with the Philippines; what steps he is taking to increase trade with the Philippines; and if he will make a statement. [R] [17385]

Mr Prisk: The Secretary of State for the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), has had no recent visitors from the Philippines.

To help deliver the Government's ambitious growth and prosperity agenda, the Philippines has been identified by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) as one of South East Asia's six emerging powers.

UK Trade and Investment (UKTI), whose parent departments are the FCO and BIS, lead on trade and investment promotion with the Philippines. The UKTI team in the Philippines is delivering the full range of commercial services to British companies and participates in Asia task force promotional events in the UK. These events are supported by Ministers, wherever possible, and highlight business opportunities in Asia, including the Philippines, at various venues throughout the UK. Recent events were in London on 8 July and Manchester on 9 July. Future events will take place in Bristol, Newcastle and Hinckley between 23 and 25 November.

Part-time Education: Bexley

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of students resident in Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency who are undertaking part-time higher education courses. [17684]

Mr Willetts: The latest information from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) shows in the 2008/09 academic year, there were 850 part-time enrolments on HE courses in UK higher education institutions from Bexleyheath and Crayford parliamentary constituency. This covers students on both undergraduate and postgraduate courses.

Figures for the 2009/10 academic year will be available in January 2011. The Department has recently received updated parliamentary constituency data therefore figures may not match those previously published. Figures exclude students studying degree courses in further education colleges as the Department does not hold these data at constituency level.

Power Stations

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what programmes his Department has in place for encouraging best practice in power generation in respect of operations and maintenance services. [17178]

Charles Hendry: I have been asked to reply.

The Department has no programmes that are specifically related to best practice in the operation and maintenance of power generation plants. Government set the regulatory framework under which electricity generation plants operate. This framework, supported by requirements set out in Environmental and Health and Safety legislation and in the grid code, gives the owners of electricity generation plants a commercial incentive to ensure that their plant is reliable. This creates an incentive to ensure that operations and maintenance services are carried out in an efficient and timely manner to support the Government's security of supply objectives.

Public Expenditure

Richard Harrington: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what funds were *(a)* bid for and *(b)* allocated during the most recent bidding round for Enterprise Capital Funds. [17880]

Mr Prisk: The Enterprise Capital Fund (ECF) does not have bidding rounds in the award of its funds. It is a rolling programme, assessing bids as they come forward and there are currently nine ECFs with a total commitment of £237 million. A further ECF mandate was announced at Budget in June 2010 providing up to £37.5 million commitment.

Capital for Enterprise Ltd., the body established to manage the Government's equity gap funds has a pipeline of potential ECF managers and, subject to the outcome of the spending review, expects to award further mandates on a rolling basis.

Regional Development Agencies

Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate his Department has made of the costs it will incur in ending regional development agencies. [17329]

Mr Prisk: It is not possible at present to estimate RDA closure costs. The work will be undertaken in a way that seeks to protect taxpayers' interests.

Chris White: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether regional development agencies are to be required to fulfil their remaining duties under contracts they have entered into. [17410]

Mr Prisk: As part of closure it is expected that RDAs will review their existing contractual commitments to see if there are opportunities to novate or exit, either in accordance with break clauses or with the consent of other parties. It is expected that RDAs will consider contracts on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the rights of contractual counterparties and with a view to protecting both taxpayers' interests and the delivery of key projects.

Royal Mail

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has to improve the efficiency and competitiveness of Royal Mail. [17406]

Mr Davey: Royal Mail is taking forward the modernisation of the business through the implementation of its transformation plan. An agreement has been reached with the Communication Workers Union that paves the way for this modernisation over the next three years. The plans will improve the operational efficiency of the company as it faces the challenge of falling market volumes and competition from other postal operators and other communications media.

The Government welcome the progress of the modernisation programme so far which has been achieved with the co-operation of the work force.

On 13 October, we introduced the Postal Services Bill which will enable Royal Mail to access private sector capital for future investment and modernisation of the business. The Bill will also enable the Government to tackle Royal Mail's pension deficit and put in place a new regulatory regime for the postal sector.

Science: Economic Growth

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to ensure that the science and innovation sector contributes to economic growth. [17407]

Mr Willetts: Science and innovation are critical to our future prosperity and strongly supported by this Government. As part of the spending review, we are continuing to strengthen the way we support science and innovation, and improving the way they contribute to economic growth.

Small Businesses: Coastal Areas

Anne Marie Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his policy is on the provision of support for small and medium-sized enterprises based in coastal towns. [17867]

Mr Prisk: We are committed to renewing and strengthening local economies, including those of coastal towns—and are enabling business and local authorities located in genuine economic areas to come together to form local enterprise partnerships (LEPs). LEPs will provide strategic leadership in their areas to set out local economic priorities, creating the right environment for business and growth and responding to local needs. We are currently considering the proposals we have received, looking at how they will support economic growth, before providing feedback to partnerships ahead of the publication of the White Paper on sub-national economic growth and the introduction of the Localism Bill.

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) account for more than 99% of private businesses, and their performance and activity is a key driver of the UK economy. If we are to promote growth, we need to support small businesses by addressing the challenges they face. Whilst acknowledging that there may be separate issues for coastal towns, which will be addressed in their locality by their LEP, we have recently announced a series of measures to address the generic issues for SMEs in the UK has a whole, which include: ensuring we have a predictable tax system that rewards endeavour; enabling better access to both debt and equity finance; and reducing red tape.

To make sure the tax system rewards endeavour and encourages SMEs to grow and thrive, we announced a rise in entrepreneurs' relief lifetime limit from £2 million to £5 million, and a reduction in small profits rate (small companies' rate) from 21% to 20%. We also made changes to national insurance contributions (NIC), raising the employers' threshold to increase the number of employees for whom employers pay no NICs by 650,000 and introducing a regional employer NIC holiday to encourage new businesses in selected regions to take on employees.

Because ensuring that growing businesses can access the finance they need is vital to growth, we extended the Enterprise Finance Guarantee (EFG) by £200 million at June's Budget, benefiting around 2,000 extra small businesses. We have also announced two new capital funds for SMEs with growth potential, and will shortly respond to the recent Green Paper on the future of business finance.

One of our earliest priorities for the coalition was to make sure that there is less red tape and less regulation, giving businesses an opportunity to expand. We have already introduced a "one-in, one-out" rule for new regulation, a new Cabinet Reducing Regulation Committee, and a review of all inherited regulation in the pipeline. The "Your Freedom" website, launched within two months of the election, gave businesses and the public the opportunity to let us know what regulations we should be looking at or scrapping, and we are taking forward suggestions put forward.

Small Businesses: Retirement

Anne Marie Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the likely effects on small and medium-sized enterprises of proposed changes to the compulsory retirement age. [17326]

Mr Davey: We are currently consulting on our proposals to phase out the default retirement age, including how support can be provided to business in adapting to the change. The Government's survey of employers' policies and practices relating to age showed that small establishments (employing less than 50 employees) were least likely to have a compulsory retirement age for some or all staff and medium-sized establishments were among the most likely. The consultation document incorporating the impact assessment considers the impact on small firms. The closing date for the consultation is 21 October.

Students: Finance

Jesse Norman: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students received funding from the Government to attend universities outside the UK in each year from 2005 to 2010; and what the total cost to the public purse was of such funding in each such year. [16885]

Mr Willetts: Government fund higher education in England through a combination of teaching grants provided by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), to the institution and student support provided by Student Finance England to the individual. HEFCE do not generally pay teaching grants to institutions outside of England, although there are exceptions, including the British Institute in Paris, as a constituent college of the University of London. To be eligible for student support, students in England should be domiciled in England and enrolled to study with a UK institution.

BIS currently funds a small number of bursaries for postgraduate students at the College of Europe and the European University Institute (EUI) and previously at the Bologna Institute. From September 2010 the regulations allow funding of 11 places at the College of Europe and 20 at EUI. Expenditure on these bursaries since the academic year 2004/05 is shown in the following table.

Bursaries paid to postgraduate students at College of Europe, EUI and Bologna Institute

Academic year	*Value (£000)*
2004/05	328
2005/06	422
2006/07	354
2007/08	426
2008/09	462

UK students can receive funding from the European Commission's Erasmus Programme to spend up to a year of their degree course in another higher education institution at one of the other 33 European countries participating in the Programme. It is estimated that around 11,700 UK students undertook such placements in 2009/10. To facilitate take-up of the programme the Higher Education Funding Council for England made around £3.5 million available to higher education institutions as fee waiver compensation. It should be noted that the Erasmus programme is funded by the European Commission, only the associated fee waiver is funded by HEFCE.

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what definition of the term graduate contribution in respect of higher education funding his Department uses. [17396]

Mr Willetts: In general, when referring to a graduate contribution, the Government are referring to the personal financial contribution that the individual makes towards the funding of their higher education after leaving university rather than as a student. This is in contrast to the contribution made by the taxpayer via use of public funds.

Students: Loans

Stephen Mosley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many student loans made to citizens of other EU Member States are outstanding; how many of those loans are being repaid; and what the monetary value is of outstanding repayments. [16570]

Mr Willetts: Under EC law, European Union (EU) students are eligible to the same access to education as those from the member state. Tuition fee loans are paid directly to the higher education institution, not the student. EU nationals are generally eligible for tuition fee support only, provided that they have been ordinarily resident in the European economic area (EEA) or Switzerland for the three years prior to the first day of the first academic year of their course.

EU nationals have been eligible to apply for tuition fee loans since their introduction in academic year 2006/07. Borrowers do not become liable to repay until the April following graduation which means that the majority of EU students were not liable to repay until April 2010.

Data on balances and numbers of borrowers as at 31 March 2010 are available from the Statistical First Release on Student Loans for Higher Education published by the Student Loans Company (SLC) at:

www.slc.co.uk/pdf/slcsfr032010.pdf

These show that there were 39,000 borrowers with EU tuition fee loans of which 400 had fully repaid. The outstanding balance (including loans not due for repayment) was £167.1 million. The majority of these borrowers were still at university or had recently left and were therefore not yet liable to begin repaying. 4,300 were liable to repay with a balance of £12.2 million.

Information on repayment status as at 30 April is available from the SLC publication on Repayments by Repayment Cohort and Tax Year at:

www.slc.co.uk/pdf/SLCOSP032010.pdf

The following figures exclude those who became liable to repay after March 2010, in order to be more consistent with figures in the preceding paragraph. This publication shows that a further 400 borrowers had repaid their loan in full, 400 were making repayments and a further 1,900 were not required to do so because their earnings were below the threshold or HMRC are in the process of confirming their earnings.

In addition, as at that date, 1,000 were considered to be in arrears. This figure includes accounts where borrowers have defaulted on their loan repayments. However, the majority (900) are borrowers who are known to be overseas, have not provided details of their income, and have therefore been set up with repayment schedules and put into notional arrears in order that the Student Loans Company (SLC) can commence tracing and possibly legal action where appropriate. This is an essential step in the overseas collection process. SLC were still seeking information to establish the correct repayment status of the remaining borrowers. Figures in the publication are rounded to the nearest 100, therefore figures in this answer derived by adding categories are approximate.

The April 2010 publication shows detail of the new cohort of students who completed their courses in summer 2009 and who had just become liable to repay in April 2010, but this is only a snapshot at a very early stage in the repayment process.

EU nationals who have been ordinarily resident in the UK and Islands for the three years prior to the first day of the first academic year of their course may qualify for the full support package. In addition, certain EEA migrant workers and specified family members may be eligible for the full support package provided that they satisfy specific residence conditions. Information is not available in the format requested which separately identifies these borrowers from English borrowers.

Supermarkets: Competition

Karl McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will consider the merits of altering the remit of the proposed Grocery Supply Chain Ombudsman to cover investigations of the carbon dioxide emissions incurred by supermarkets in transporting food. [17948]

Mr Davey: The coalition programme for Government, published on 18 May, makes a commitment to introduce a Groceries Code Adjudicator (GCA) to enforce the Grocery Supply Code of Practice (GSCOP) and curb abuses of power which undermine our farmers and act against the long-term interest of consumers.

The GSCOP contains specific provisions that aim to address the Competition Commission's concerns over the exercise of buyer power by large supermarkets and their suppliers. The Government set out their proposals for the creation of the GCA on 3 August

http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/business-law/docs/competition-matters/10-1011-groceries-supply-code-practice-government-response.pdf

The Government have no plans to extend the remit of the GCA to cover matters outside of the GSCOP.

Training: Devon

Anne Marie Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will allocate resources to support the development of the skills centre in Newton Abbot constituency to extend training opportunities in skills relevant to the local economy. [17868]

Mr Hayes: The Government are committed to a skills system that is more responsive to individuals and employers, where employers can lead and shape the system and where individuals are informed and empowered by access to high quality, independent careers advice and guidance. It would not be appropriate for me to comment on the future allocation of public resources for skills in advance of the comprehensive spending review to be published in the week commencing 18 October. As part of our wider reforms, we have already taken action to free local colleges and training organisations from unnecessary central controls and bureaucratic burdens so that they can respond quickly and flexibly to the skills needed in their local communities.

Vocational Training

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what process his Department is following to consult on the right to request training for employees in small businesses; and if he will make a statement. [17196]

Mr Hayes: We recently ran a public consultation on the future of the right to request time to train as part of our review of regulations introduced since January. The consultation closed on 15 September. This consultation was actively promoted to all of the employer representative bodies, including the Federation of Small Business, and the TUC, and 147 consultation responses were received. We are now considering the responses before making our recommendation to the Reducing Regulation Committee (RRC). A summary of the consultation will be published by December.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has to increase vocational learning opportunities in *(a)* Witham constituency, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* nationally. [17409]

Mr Hayes: Our consultation, Skills for Sustainable Growth, which outlined our vision of building an internationally competitive skills base and ensuring we have a skills system that prepares people for work and then to progress, closed on 14 October. Our priorities are to invest in quality, drive up professional standards and compete on high skills. We will publish a full strategy for skills after the Spending Review on 20 October which will set out how we intend to support these priorities.

The Government's decision to redeploy £150 million of our savings for 2010-11, creating an additional 50,000 adult Apprenticeship places, demonstrates our commitment to high-quality skills. The National Apprenticeships Service and the Skills Funding Agency are working with training providers which will be encouraging employers to make these additional places available.

In 2008/09 there were around 100 new apprenticeship starts in the Witham area. Essex county council is currently working with the National Apprenticeship Service on an Apprenticeship Training Agency pilot which is testing out a new way to make it easier for businesses to take on apprentices in the area and has already created over 100 new apprenticeship places.

On a national basis, the Skills Funding Agency has been working to focus public funding on vocational qualifications on the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) which are designed to meet employers and learners needs. Currently over 44% of QCF vocational qualifications are in receipt of public funding and during 2009/10 there were over 600,000 learners, both pre and post 19, following publicly funded learning aims.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 19 October 2010

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Elections

Yvette Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many allegations his Department received of electoral fraud in Helmand province during the parliamentary elections in Afghanistan in 2010. [18251]

Mr Hague: The elections in Afghanistan were an Afghan-led process with support from the UK and the international community. The Electoral Complaints Commission (ECC) is the official body in Afghanistan who handle and investigate complaints of electoral fraud. To date, the ECC has received over 4,000 complaints in connection with the recent parliamentary elections. Allegations of electoral fraud in Helmand have been limited to 57: six have been classed as category 'A' complaints (based on credible evidence and likely to affect the outcome); 15 were classed as category 'B' (credible, but not likely to impact the overall outcome); 36 were classed as category 'C' (low credibility, poorly evidenced, unlikely to affect the final outcome).

Democratic Republic of Congo: Sexual Offences

Yvette Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to improve the effectiveness of the UN Mission Organization Stabilization in protecting women from sexual violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo. [18254]

Mr Hague: The UK has worked to ensure that civilian protection, including protecting women from sexual violence, remains the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO's) mandated top priority. In response to the recently reported mass rapes in Walikale, we have pressed for MONUSCO to take forward urgently recommendations to protect and defend civilians better, in particular through communications with the local population.

The primary responsibility for protection of civilians lies with the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) authorities, and my hon. Friend the Minister for Africa raised our concerns with Foreign Minister Thambwe both during a recent visit to the DRC and during their meeting in the margins of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. We will continue to urge President Kabila to implement his "Zero Tolerance" policy towards bringing perpetrators of sexual violence to justice.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Chris Bryant: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) by how much his Department plans to reduce its contribution to the budget of BBC World Service in 2010-11; [16103]

(2) by how much his Department plans to reduce its contribution to the budget of the British Council in 2010-11. [16104]

Alistair Burt: Updated information on the budgets for the British Council and the BBC World Service will be published in the winter supplementary estimates.

Yvette Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has for further changes to his Department's budget in 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [18112]

Mr Hague: Updated information on the 2010-11 departmental budget will be published in the Winter Supplementary Estimates.

High Peace Council

Yvette Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with President Karzai on the work of the High Peace Council. [18252]

Mr Hague: We welcome the establishment of the High Peace Council in Afghanistan. We are in regular contact with the Government of Afghanistan on this and other issues.

Kosovo: Orthodox Church

Mr Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the number of *(a)* Orthodox churches, monasteries and gravestones in Kosovo which have been destroyed or damaged and *(b)* people who have been (i) arrested and (ii) convicted for such damage or destruction in each of the last two years. [17716]

Mr Lidington: In 2008, twenty incidents of criminal damage against Serbian Orthodox sites were reported. Twenty people were arrested in relation to these attacks. In 2009 there were nineteen incidents reported, leading to twenty six arrests. This year 18 cases of damaged or stolen religious monuments have been reported so far, predominantly damage to Serbian Orthodox cemeteries. Kosovo police statistics on arrests in 2010 will not be available until the end of the year. Data on the number of convictions are not readily available. This is because the Kosovo police do not hold such records centrally.

Pope Benedict XVI

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the implications for his Department's policies of the recent visit of Pope Benedict XVI; and if he will make a statement. [17422]

Mr Bellingham: Pope Benedict XVI's visit to the United Kingdom—the first official visit by a Pope to this country—was an important milestone in the relationship between the UK and the Holy See.

The visit paved the way for further co-operation between the UK and the Holy See on a number of international issues where we share a common goal, including addressing the challenge of climate change, promoting multi-faith dialogue as a means of working for peace in the world, and fighting poverty and disease. These were among the issues discussed both in bilateral meetings during the visit and at the working dinner with the Papal delegation hosted by my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary.

The visit was also an opportunity to showcase the UK as a home to many religious traditions and to highlight the contribution they can make in a modern pluralistic society.

We value our co-operation with the Holy See, and look forward to building on the links established by the visit in the period ahead.

Serbia: Kosovo

Yvette Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his Serbian counterpart on talks between Serbia and Kosovo; and if he will make a statement. [18253]

Mr Hague: I visited Belgrade on 31 August this year for meetings with my Serbian counterpart, Mr Vuk Jeremic, and the Serbian President, Mr Boris Tadic. I subsequently met Mr Jeremic in New York in September during the UN General Assembly Ministerial Week.

On both occasions I urged Serbia to use the opportunity provided by the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice, which stated that Kosovo's declaration of independence was not in violation of international law, to engage in a constructive dialogue with Kosovo, facilitated by the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

The Government warmly welcome the subsequent decision of the Serbian Government to engage in the dialogue process. The Government firmly believe that such a dialogue, which focuses on issues of practical concern, leaving aside the question of Kosovo status, is the surest way of achieving stability in the region.

WALES

Internet: Public Expenditure

Mr David: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what the cost to the public purse was of the most recent upgrade to her Department's website. [16618]

Mr David Jones: The Wales Office spent £4,441.50 on the recent upgrade of its websites. This included recommended work on a security upgrade, an improved system for simpler administration and more cost-effective maintenance in the future. It is the first upgrade of the sites since the redesign of 2007, which cost £10,500.

Passport Agency: Employment

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for the Home Department on passport agency employment in Wales; and if she will make a statement. [18027]

Mrs Gillan: I had a brief discussion with the relevant Home Office Minister on 5 October who agreed to meet me the following week to further discuss issues relating to the Identity and Passport Service in Newport.

Following details of the consultation being leaked to the media on 8 October I met the Home Secretary that evening and discussed the issue. I subsequently met the chief executive of the Identity and Passport Service and the Immigration Minister on 12 October and will continue to have further relevant meetings and discussions during the consultation period.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Dental Services

Dr Wollaston: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the total annual cost to the public purse is of dental care provision for the armed forces under each budgetary heading. [17616]

Mr Robathan: In financial year 2009-10, £62.316 million was attributed to public funds for the provision of dental care to the armed forces. This sum is broken down as follows:

Defence dental services, financial year 2009-10

	£ million
Manpower	
Service pay	46.917
Service allowances	1.339
Civilian pay	9.035
Total manpower	57.291
Non-manpower	
IT and communications	0.036
Inventory/stock consumed	3.380
Equipment support	0.040
Training	0.029
Medical—health services	0.730
Admin, PR, welfare and medical support equipment	0.154
Fees for professional services	0.053
Travel and subsistence	0.226
Transportation allowances	0.652
Other costs	0.026
Receipts	-0.301
Total non-manpower	5.025
Total	62.316

Ex-servicemen: Prisoners

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he is taking to reduce the number of ex-service personnel entering the prison system. [17615]

Mr Robathan: I refer the hon. Member to the joint statement I made with my hon. Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Justice in the House on 15 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 40WS, which indicated that 3.5% of the current prison population in England and Wales are ex-service personnel, with only 6% of these having started their current sentence within a year of being discharged from the armed forces.

Although the figures are low, our aim is to reduce them further, and work continues on analysing the ex-service prison population in terms of demographic and service in order to allow us to make informed policy decisions.

The principal contribution the Ministry of Defence (MOD) can make in reducing the potential to offend is by making personnel aware of the opportunities available to them on leaving service, in the form of resettlement programmes as part of their general preparation for transition. Furthermore, all service leavers, including those who leave early, are entitled to lifetime support from the Regular Forces Employment Association and Officers' Association charities, both of which are specifically focused on getting veterans into the right job.

Where former service personnel have entered the prison system, the Ex-Service Offenders Working Group (formerly known as the Veterans Prison In-Reach Working Group) which officials in the MOD chair, brings together charitable and voluntary sector organisations, the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency of the MOD, the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) of the Ministry of Justice, prison front-line staff, representatives from the devolved Administrations and a representative from the Sainsbury Centre for Mental Health. Together, this group aims to provide a common and collaborative approach to the issue of ex-service personnel in the criminal justice system, and works to raise awareness amongst the ex-service prison population of the help and support available to them and their families while they serve their sentence and as they prepare for release. This is to ensure a common and collaborative approach to former personnel in prison in order to minimise the risk of reoffending amongst this community.

SCOTLAND

Elections: Scotland

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with the Scottish Executive on the Interim Electoral Management Board for Scotland and the appointment of its convenor. [17538]

Michael Moore: The appointment of the Convenor of the Interim Electoral Management Board is a matter for the board and the Scottish Government have not asked to speak to me about this.

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will introduce legislative proposals to put the Interim Electoral Management Board for Scotland on a statutory basis in relation to elections which are the responsibility of the UK Government. [17540]

Michael Moore: I plan to devolve my responsibility for the administration of the Scottish Parliament elections to the Scottish Government in accordance with the recommendations of the Calman Commission. It will be then for the Scottish Government to decide whether they wish to put the Interim Electoral Management Board on a statutory basis for that election. I do not have ministerial responsibility for other UK elections.

Equality and Human Rights Commission: Scotland

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will have discussions with the Scottish Executive on the future operation of the Equality and Human Rights Commission in Scotland. [17539]

Michael Moore: I have not been approached by the Scottish Government to hold discussions on this issue.

I met with Kaliani Lyle, Scotland Commissioner of the Equality and Human Rights Commission on 14 July 2010. The Equality and Human Rights Commission is one of the bodies covered by the Government's review of public bodies, on which the Minister for the Cabinet Office made an announcement on 14 October 2010. The review proposed that the commission should be retained but with a better focus on its core functions as an equality regulator and national human rights institution. Discussions between the Government Equalities Office and the Scottish Government on the future work of the Equality and Human Rights Commission are ongoing.

TRANSPORT

Bicycles

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to take steps to increase the level of integration of cycling with other modes of public transport; and if he will make a statement. [16898]

Norman Baker: This coalition Government are firmly committed to sustainable travel initiatives, including cycling and walking. That is why it is expressly referred to in the coalition agreement. We also want to give more power and more flexibility to local authorities as we strongly believe that they know best what is right for their communities.

On 22 September I announced a new 'Local Sustainable Transport Fund', a bid-based fund that will challenge local transport authorities outside London to develop packages of measures that support economic growth and reduce carbon in their communities as well as delivering cleaner environments, improved safety and increased levels of physical activity.

I anticipate that this will include sustainable travel measures, including walking and cycling, and initiatives to improve integration between travel modes and end-to-end journey experiences, better public transport and improved traffic management schemes. It could well include measures that support integration of cycling with other modes such as bike and rail and help fund initiatives like the Leeds Cyclepoint which I recently opened. This new facility is modelled on stations in the Netherlands and provides secure cycle storage for around 300 cycles, a small shop, workshop and staff facilities.

More details will be announced after the spending review.

Bus Services: Concessions

Stephen Mosley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many residents of City of Chester constituency hold a free concessionary bus pass; and how many such residents are higher rate taxpayers. [17317]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport is not responsible for issuing passes and so does not maintain records of how many passes individual authorities have issued.

According to Office for National Statistics figures, taken at the mid-point of 2007, in the City of Chester constituency there were 21,266 people of eligible age for a concessionary bus pass. The Department for Transport does not hold any figures for the number of people eligible for concessionary travel by virtue of their disability. Information about how many higher rate taxpayers hold free concessionary bus passes in the City of Chester constituency is not available.

Concessions

Harriett Baldwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will ensure that the revenue of district councils is not reduced by more than the cost of their concessionary travel schemes as a result of the implementation of his proposals to change the funding route for his Department's concessionary travel scheme. [16607]

Norman Baker: The Department for Communities and Local Government held a consultation, which closed 6 October, on the distribution of formula grant to local authorities in England. The consultation covered proposals for how the transfer of responsibility for concessionary travel from lower to upper tier local authorities to will be taken into account in authorities' funding allocations from 2011-12.

The total amount of funding to be allocated to all local authorities will be decided as part of the spending review.

M18: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects the M18 motorway north of Doncaster to be free of lane closures and temporary speed limits; what steps are being taken to expedite the current roadworks; and if he will make a statement. [17554]

Mike Penning: There are five schemes being undertaken on the M18 between junctions 2 and 5 which will continue until the end of March 2011. This includes four schemes to replace steel central reserve barrier, which are approaching the end of their design life, with new concrete central reserve barrier. The fifth scheme comprises works to improve the interchange between the M18 and A1 (M) through the provision of traffic signals.

The programmes for the five schemes have been carefully co-ordinated to minimise the overall duration of the work. Lane restrictions are limited to night time only in order to minimise disruption to the road user. However, a 50 mph speed restriction remains in place at all times for the safety of the travelling public.

The benefits of the barrier work are improved safety as a result of the reduced likelihood of crossover type accidents, fewer repairs arising from collision damage and reduced future maintenance requirements. The improvements at the junction of the M18 and A1 (M) will improve reliability and safety by reducing delays at the junction.

Maritime and Coastguard Agency

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 6 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 183W, on the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, on how many occasions he has met the chief executive of that body since his appointment. [17569]

Mike Penning: My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Transport, has met Sir Alan Massey, the chief executive of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) since 20 July 2010, on one occasion.

Since my appointment I have met Richard Parkes, the interim chief executive of the MCA until 20 July 2010, five times and the new chief executive, four times.

David Mowat: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many incidents attended by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency have involved sky lanterns in the last 12 months; and on how many such occasions a *(a)* lifeboat and *(b)* helicopter was requested. [18089]

Mike Penning: From 1 October 2009 to 30 September 2010 the Maritime and Coastguard Agency responded to 128 false alerts, which Her Majesty's Coastguard attributed to, or believed were caused by, sky lanterns. The majority of the 128 incidents were dealt with by volunteer Coastguard Rescue Teams in their communities. Lifeboats were tasked on 26 occasions, and on two occasions a helicopter was tasked.

Motor Vehicles: Foreign Nationals

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will introduce a mechanism to ensure that drivers of foreign-registered vehicles in the UK contribute towards road maintenance costs. [17913]

Mike Penning: As stated in the coalition programme for Government, we are working towards the introduction of a new system of HGV road user charging to ensure that foreign heavy goods vehicles contribute to the upkeep of UK roads that they use and to ensure a fairer arrangement for UK hauliers.

The Secretary of State has ruled out national road pricing for cars on existing roads for the lifetime of this Parliament.

Railways: Fares

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department takes to regulate the level of rail fare increases. [17644]

Mrs Villiers: Regulated rail fare increases are managed through provisions in the franchise agreements entered into between the Government and train operating companies. The current formula is RPI+1% with the exception of certain fares in south eastern and west Yorkshire which are currently regulated at RPI+3%.

Fares increases are regulated for commuter fares around London and other big cities; weekly season tickets and long-distance off-peak return tickets (formerly known as saver return tickets). For other tickets, train operators can set their own ticket prices according to market demand.

Regional Transport Boards

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has for the future of regional transport boards; and if he will make a statement. [17555]

Norman Baker: In line with the localism agenda it is for local areas to decide what structures will best assist the delivery of transport solutions in the context of emerging sub-national governance arrangements.

Roads: Accidents

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 8 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 589W, on roads: accidents, when he expects to bring forward proposals on road casualty reduction; and if he will make a statement. [17310]

Mike Penning: The coalition Government are finalising their priorities for road safety and will make an announcement by the end of the calendar year about the future direction of road safety policy.

Roads: Deaths

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* deaths and *(b)* serious injuries have occurred on roads in Dartford constituency in each of the last five years. [17973]

Mike Penning: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Reported fatalities and serious injuries in road accidents in Dartford constituency[1]: 2005-09

	Year of accident				
Casualty severity	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Killed	7	6	8	2	5
Seriously injured	51	44	54	45	34

[1] Based on 2010 constituency boundary.

Shipping: Inspections

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many non UK-registered merchant ships have been detained by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency as a result of UK Port State Inspections in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [18107]

Mike Penning: The number of non UK-registered merchant ships detained by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency in each of the last three years is as follows.

	Number of ships
2007	87
2008	68
2009	62
January to September 2010	45

Shipping: Pollution

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when the Maritime and Coastguard Agency's Counter Pollution and Response Branch last reviewed the strategic location of pollution response equipment. [18108]

Mike Penning: The UK counter pollution stockpile of response equipment is maintained under a commercial contract. Following a review of this contract, in the second-half of 2009, a new contract was let in the first quarter of 2010.

This resulted in changed strategic locations of the equipment from Milford Haven; Liverpool and Perth, to Bristol, Barnsley and Dundee.

Thameslink

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects the order for new trains for the Thameslink route to be placed. [17928]

Mrs Villiers: Any decision to place an order for new trains for the Thameslink route is subject to the outcome of the Government's spending review.

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will estimate the number of additional posts for train drivers to be created as a result of the Thameslink programme. [17929]

Mrs Villiers: Any decision to proceed with the Thameslink programme is subject to the outcome of the Government's spending review.

Furthermore, the detailed timetable to be operated should the Thameslink programme be fully implemented has not yet been finalised. Consequently, I am not currently in a position to estimate the numbers of additional posts for train drivers that will be required at this time.

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many construction workers are employed on the Thameslink programme; and how many construction posts are expected to be *(a)* created during and *(b)* sustained throughout the remaining phases of the programme. [17930]

Mrs Villiers: The Thameslink programme is currently employing approximately 2,600 construction workers and is also supporting a further significant number through the supply chain.

Decisions on progressing future stages of the Thameslink programme are dependant on the outcome of the spending review.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Civil Partnerships

Stephen Gilbert: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities if she will assess the likely level of take-up of provision in legislation for civil partnerships for heterosexual couples. [18110]

Lynne Featherstone: There have not been any assessments on the likely take-up by heterosexual couples seeking a civil partnership, were it to be provided for in legislation.

The Civil Partnership Act 2004 was designed to give same-sex relationships parity of treatment with civil marriage. To enter into a civil partnership, two people must be of the same sex.

Civil Partnerships: Marriage

Stephen Gilbert: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities if she will assess the likely level of take-up of provision in legislation for same-sex marriage. [18111]

Lynne Featherstone: There have not been any assessments of the likely take-up of same-sex marriage, were it to be provided for in legislation.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Aarhus Convention

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what timetable she has set for the implementation of the provisions of Article 9 of the Aarhus convention. [17116]

Richard Benyon: The UK has implemented article 9 of the Aarhus convention. In addition, we intend to consolidate the case law on protective costs orders; and we are preparing draft rules for consideration by the Civil Procedure Rule Committee, which are expected to be implemented by April 2011 at the latest.

Agriculture: Litter

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will estimate the financial loss to farmers arising from *(a)* damage to crops, *(b)* damage to farm equipment and *(c)* injury or death of livestock attributable to the uncontrolled flight of Chinese lanterns in the latest period for which figures are available. [17695]

Mr Paice: We have anecdotal evidence of the damage caused by Chinese lanterns but this is insufficient to make any estimates of losses incurred. We have met with the farming unions and others in order to begin to build an evidence base of the problems caused.

DEFRA and the Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS) are aware of concerns about the damage caused by Chinese lanterns and are looking into possible actions to reduce the risks posed. BIS will also be working with local authority trading standards to encourage importers to improve the safety of these products and to make them fully biodegradable.

Bees: Diseases

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether her Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated research into colony collapse disorder. [17109]

Mr Paice: Colony collapse disorder is the term given to the abnormally high colony losses occurring in the USA, usually characterized by sudden disappearance of bees. This characteristic has not been observed in the UK, although there have been some significant bee losses. The Food and Environment Research Agency's (Fera's) National Bee Unit has investigated the causes of colony losses in England and Wales and the key results are available on its BeeBase website.

The results have shown that the most important risk factor in the mortality or weakening of colonies is deformed wing virus, a virus transmitted by the parasitic varroa mite, clearly indicating failed or unsuccessful treatments of mite infestations. This highlights the importance of improving bee husbandry standards, which is a key objective of the Healthy Bees Plan, currently being delivered in partnership by Fera, the Welsh Assembly Government and others such as the Bee Farmers' Association, NFU, British Beekeepers' Association and the Welsh Beekeepers' Association.

Clothing: Sustainable Development

Stephen Mosley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to implement its Sustainable Clothing Action Plan. [17065]

Mr Paice: The Sustainable Clothing Action Plan (SCAP) contains agreed actions by Government and others to improve the sustainability of clothing. Although DEFRA has some, most of the actions belong to businesses and other organisations along the clothing supply chain.

As actions in the SCAP are completed, organisations have agreed to disseminate the lessons learned and best practice to the wider clothing sector. DEFRA will publish a progress report in early 2011.

Dairy Farming

Stephen Phillips: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will take steps to ensure that future proposals for intensive dairy farming in the UK *(a)* are examined by her Department, *(b)* take account of the views of local residents and *(c)* do not affect adversely the natural environment. [17541]

Mr Paice: In the assessment of planning applications for agriculture development proposals, it is a matter for the relevant planning authority to take account of the views of local residents.

DEFRA already has comprehensive animal welfare and environment legislation which applies to all livestock farming whatever the system and regardless of size.

Dairy Farming: Animal Welfare

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the health and welfare standards for large-scale dairy enterprises in which cows are housed indoors all year round. [17742]

Mr Paice: All dairy cattle, in whatever system they are kept, are protected by comprehensive animal welfare legislation. In England, the welfare of cattle is protected by the Animal Welfare Act 2006, which makes it an offence to cause unnecessary suffering to any animal. The Act also contains a duty of care to animals, this means that anyone responsible for an animal must take reasonable steps to make sure the animal's needs are met. These general requirements are supplemented by more detailed ones in the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007 for calves and cattle, covering areas such as accommodation, tethering, inspection, feed and water.

It is important to recognise that poor welfare may occur in both intensive and extensive systems. The most significant influence on the welfare of livestock is the stock-keeper, not the system in which it is reared.

DEFRA is currently funding a three year project by the Scottish Agricultural College which is investigating the management and welfare of continuously housed cows. It will compare the health of cows in continuously housed systems with those in summer grazing systems, by using culling and fertility data. Work on this research is at an early stage, and is due to be completed at the end of June 2011.

Dangerous Dogs

Angie Bray: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans she has to bring forward legislative proposals to amend legislation regarding dangerous dogs. [17423]

Mr Paice: The recent public consultation exercise on dangerous dogs legislation received 4,250 responses. My ministerial colleague Lord Henley is currently considering the responses and we expect to make an announcement on our proposed way forward later in the autumn.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she has made an estimate of the change in the level of carbon dioxide emissions from her Department since May 2010; and what steps she plans to take to meet her Department's target of reducing such emissions by 10 per cent. by May 2011. [16809]

Richard Benyon: During the first four months since May 2010, DEFRA emitted 29% less carbon dioxide from its office estate (Core DEFRA and its Executive agencies) than the same period the previous year.

The Department has initiated a number of measures to ensure it meet the 10% carbon emissions target. These include: installation and upgrade of building equipment to high efficiency technologies; improved management of building controls; introduction of a 19°C winter temperature set point in offices; and a Department wide staff awareness campaign.

This performance information and more details on DEFRA's activities to deliver this target can be found at:

http://data.gov.uk/departmental-performance-co2-emissions-reduction-date

Departmental Work Experience

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many interns her Department has engaged in the last 12 months; and how many were *(a)* unpaid, *(b)* remunerated with expenses only and *(c)* paid a salary. [17208]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA has engaged 30 interns in the 12-month period up to October 2010 under two separate Government schemes. All interns worked on short projects within Core DEFRA lasting eight to 12 weeks and received payment for their work.

We do not have data for how many interns the agencies have engaged or data on unpaid interns and to gather these data would be a disproportionate cost.

Domestic Waste: Recycling

Joan Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many and what proportion of households in England are provided with a collection of at least two types of recyclable waste separately from non-recyclable waste; and what estimate she has made of the likely number of such households after 31 December 2010; [17640]

(2) what steps her Department intends to take to ensure compliance by local authorities with the provisions of the Household Waste Recycling Act 2003 after 31 December 2010; [17641]

(3) how many and what proportion of households in England are not provided with a collection of at least two types of recyclable waste separately from non-recyclable waste on the grounds of *(a)* cost and *(b)* the provision of comparable arrangements; and what estimate she has made of the likely number of households in each such case after 31 December 2010. [17642]

Richard Benyon: According to the Waste and Resources Action programme's (WRAP's) data, 94% of households in England were provided with a collection of at least two materials in 2008-09. WRAP is in the process of collating data for 2009-10.

Neither DEFRA nor WRAP holds data on the reasons why households are or are not provided with a collection of at least two recyclables.

The Government believe that local authorities are best placed to make decisions on the efficient use of local resources and are answerable to their local customers on how they comply with the legislation.

Farm Animal Welfare Council

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the net effect of abolishing the Farm Animal Welfare Council on her Department's expenditure in 2011-12. [17629]

Mr Paice: Further to the announcement on the Government's review of arm's length bodies made by the Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General, my right hon. Friend the Member for Horsham (Mr Maude) on 14 October, the Farm Animal Welfare Council will be reconstituted as an expert committee to the Department. In this capacity, the new committee will provide independent, authoritative and cost effective advice to DEFRA and Departments in the devolved administrations in Scotland and Wales.

The 2011-12 budget for the new committee has not been agreed and will be fixed in the light of the Government's spending review.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the statement of 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 505-06, on public bodies reform, who will determine the composition of the committee of experts of the Farm Animal Welfare Council. [18177]

Mr Paice: Further to the announcement on the Government's review of arm's length bodies made by the Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General, my right hon. Friend the Member for Horsham (Mr Maude) on 14 October, *Official Report*, columns 505-06, the Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC) will be reconstituted as an Expert Committee to the department. In this capacity, the new Committee will provide independent, authoritative and cost-effective advice to DEFRA and Departments in the devolved Administrations in Scotland and Wales.

Existing members of the FAWC will be given the opportunity to consider whether they are willing to serve on the new Committee. Those willing to serve will transfer to the new Committee. New expert committee appointments will be public appointments made administratively by the DEFRA Senior Responsible Owner on behalf of Ministers.

Food: Imports

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will bring forward proposals to regulate the importation of soya animal feed derived from cleared rainforest. [17331]

Mr Paice: The Government have no plans to bring forward proposals to regulate the importation of soy animal feed derived from cleared rainforest. The importation of soy for animal feed is one of a matrix of policy issues associated with the sustainability of the livestock sector, and the Government need to take a holistic view and base policy decisions on a science-based understanding of alternatives. To that end, the Government have commissioned research into replacements for soy due that is due to report in 2012.

We would also be concerned that any move to regulate in this area would fall foul of international trade rules and could jeopardise the UK's and EU's negotiating stance in future World Trade Organisation discussions.

Food: Labelling

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will bring forward proposals to ensure that food labelling includes information on the use of halal meat. [17665]

Mr Paice: The European Parliament has suggested an amendment to the proposed EU food information regulations to require food labels to indicate whether an animal has been stunned before slaughter.

I appreciate that this is an issue which people feel strongly about and we will be working with interested groups to find a way to address their concerns. People should know what they are buying in shops or when they are eating out, and I will be discussing with the food industry whether labelling and point of sale information can play a greater role in giving consumers a choice.

Insurance: Statement of Principles

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had with representatives of the insurance industry on renewing the Statement of Principles in 2013. [17579]

Richard Benyon: A flood summit was held on 16 September 2010 where I met with key representatives from the insurance industry, the National Flood Forum, the Environment Agency and local government, amongst others.

Participants discussed the current availability and affordability of flood insurance and agreed on a roadmap towards 2013, when the current Statement of Principles between the Government and insurers expires.

Kosher Meat: EU Law

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make an assessment of the effects on the market for kosher meat of EU regulations on labelling kosher meat; and if she will make a statement. [R] [17365]

Mr Paice: There are currently no specific EU regulations on labelling kosher meat. However, in the context of proposals for an EU food information regulation, the European Parliament has suggested an amendment to require food labels to indicate whether an animal has been stunned before slaughter. I will be meeting with members of the Jewish community in early November to hear their concerns about the European Parliament proposal.

Slaughterhouses: Religious Practice

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent estimate she has made of the number of *(a)* slaughterhouses and *(b)* slaughterhouses practising halal slaughter. [18319]

Mr Paice: There are currently 346 approved slaughterhouses operating in Great Britain. There is no separate approval of halal slaughterhouses and consequently we do not know the number of slaughterhouses practising halal.

Sustainable Development

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 7 September 2010, *Official Report*, columns 425-26W, on the Sustainable Development Commission (SDC), which *(a)* organisations and *(b)* commentators she expects to fulfil the Sustainable Development Commission's watchdog function; what criteria Ministers will use to decide the data appropriate to provide to such organisations and commentators to scrutinise Government policy and actions on sustainable development; from which organisations her Department and other Departments plans to procure sustainable development expertise; whether her Department will receive any additional resources to build its internal capability to champion sustainable development in policymaking across Government; and what assessment she made of the manner in which her Department will assume the SDC's capacity building function prior to the decision to abolish the SDC. [16422]

Mr Paice: The Government expect that Parliament will play a major role in holding it to account on sustainable development. In addition, there are a range of other organisations and commentators with experience and expertise in sustainable development who will scrutinise and comment on our performance. These include national level non-governmental organisations (NGOs), academic institutions and business groups, as well as international organisations such as the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.

DEFRA is reviewing its sustainability commitments and we will make sure we are transparent to Parliament and the public. We have released a draft departmental structural reform plan and publish monthly updates on its delivery. We are also looking at how we will measure progress using a set of indicators. On operations, we are already publishing real time energy data from departmental headquarters.

On procurement, the nature of any sustainable development work we might commission will determine which organisations will have the capability to deliver—but we would expect these to include, among others, research councils, academic institutions and NGOs.

The future resource for championing sustainable development will be agreed as part of the process to determine the overall priorities for the Department's budget, which is currently under discussion as part of the spending review.

In line with the Secretary of State's commitment to mainstream sustainable development across Government, DEFRA is reviewing what capacity building function will be required. DEFRA expects to concentrate its efforts on influencing core policymaking processes, such as ensuring that impact assessments are undertaken effectively and that sustainable development is fully embedded into HM Treasury's Green Book and central reporting processes.

Sustainable Development Commission

Mr David: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what mechanisms are in place to ensure that the functions of the Sustainable Development Commission (SDC) continue to be undertaken after the closure of the SDC. [16863]

Mr Paice: The Sustainable Development Commission's four functions are to be a watchdog, policy advisory, capacity-building and advocacy.

We believe that there are already many organisations and commentators who will continue to hold the Government to account and thus that a dedicated watchdog body is unnecessary. Ministers are accountable to Parliament for the carrying out of their duties. We will continue to publish the necessary data for such scrutiny.

Where the expertise does not already exist internally, DEFRA and other Departments commission additional expert advice from a range of organisations, of which the Commission is one. In the future, where necessary, we expect policy teams to continue to do this through the usual procurement process.

DEFRA leads across Government on sustainable development. We are considering how best to address capacity-building taking account of the Government's priorities.

DEFRA will continue to champion and advocate sustainable development in policymaking across Government. We will build our internal capability and seek to work with the many external organisations already working within this field and who can support us.

Tobacco

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she has had at EU level on the level of EU subsidy for tobacco production. [17567]

Mr Paice: Agreement was reached at the Council of Ministers in April 2004 on the reform of the EU tobacco regime. The reforms introduced decoupling into the tobacco sector, which means that the direct link between production and support is broken and the last direct subsidies of EU tobacco production are payable in 2010. Consequently it has not been necessary for Ministers to have further discussions on tobacco subsidy at EU level.

Wines

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she has had at EU level on the extent of EU wine reserves. [17566]

Mr Paice: No discussions have been held on the extent of EU wine reserves.

The UK welcomed the removal, as part of the 2008 Wine Reform negotiations, of subsidies previously offered by the EU to producers to store wine in bulk prior to bottling, sale or destruction. The holding of stocks of wine for purposes such as improving its marketability through aging, or prior to supply is a commercial matter.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Antisocial Behaviour

Richard Harrington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will bring forward proposals to amend the definition in legislation of antisocial behaviour in order to ensure more effective use of police time. [17881]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 18 October 2010]:* The definition of antisocial behaviour (ASB) was established in the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act, but much of what is described as ASB is actually crime, and the public expect it to be dealt with properly. On 28 July, my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary announced a review of ASB tools and powers to ensure that, in future, the police and their partners at local level have a simpler toolkit that is less bureaucratic and provides a real deterrent. We will bring forward our proposals in due course.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* officials of her Department and *(b)* external advisers are working on her Department's review of antisocial behaviour orders. [16559]

James Brokenshire: On 28 July, the Home Secretary announced a review of the tools and powers available to the police and other agencies to tackle antisocial behaviour, including antisocial behaviour orders. The review is being conducted by seven Home Office officials, amongst other duties. No external advisers have been employed, but officials are working closely with colleagues from other Government Departments and a range of front-line professionals.

Antisocial Behaviour: West Midlands

Paul Uppal: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders have been *(a)* made and *(b)* breached in respect of those resident in Wolverhampton South West constituency in each of the last five years. [18003]

James Brokenshire: The latest available data on the number of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) issued and breached covers the period 1 April 1999 to 31 December 2008. Data collected centrally by the Ministry of Justice on the number of ASBOs issued and breached are not available below criminal justice system (CJS) area level.

Crime Rate: Thames Valley Police

Mark Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the crime detection rate was *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in each basic command unit of Thames Valley Police in the latest period for which figures are available. [18140]

Nick Herbert: The information requested is given in the table.

Detection rates for basic command units in Thames Valley and England and Wales: 2009-10

		Percentage
Area	*Total detection rate*	*Sanction detection rate*
Berkshire East	19	18
Berkshire West	18	18
Buckinghamshire	18	17
Milton Keynes	25	24
Oxfordshire	22	21
England and Wales	28	28

Detection rates are a ratio of crimes detected in a period to crimes recorded in a period. They are not based on tracking whether individual crimes recorded in a given period have eventually been detected.

From 1 April 2007 the rules governing recording of non-sanction detections were revised to reduce the scope within which they can be claimed to a very small limited set of circumstances. This has significantly reduced the number of non-sanction detections which has been reflected in the overall detection rates.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* officials of her Department and *(b)* external advisers are working on her Department's new strategy to tackle drug misuse. [16957]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 13 October 2010]:* The development of the new drug strategy is being led by the Drug Strategy Unit within the Home Office. A core group of 12 members of staff are working on the development of the new strategy. Other areas of the Home Office and other Government Departments are also involved in contributing to what is fundamentally a cross-departmental strategy. No external advisers are working for the department on the development of the new strategy.

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* officials of her Department and *(b)* external advisers are working on her Department's review of changes to UK licensing laws. [17056]

James Brokenshire: The review is being led by the Alcohol Strategy Unit within the Home Office. Various officials within the unit are working on the review of the Licensing Act, alongside other policy tasks. Officials from other Government Departments such as Culture, Media and Sport, Health and Business, Innovation and Skills are also assisting on the review. No external advisers are working on this review.

Equality Act 2010

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of claims against employers made by employees on grounds introduced by the Equality Act 2010. [17194]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government's estimates of the number of claims against employers made by employees on grounds introduced by the Equality Act 2010 are set out in the impact assessment for the Act which was published in April 2010 and is available from the Government Equalities Office website.

Female Genital Mutilation

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many cases of female genital mutilation have been reported to UK police in each year since 2003; [17789]

(2) what estimate her Department has made of the number of girls resident in the UK who have been taken overseas to undergo female genital mutilation in each of the last three years. [17790]

Lynne Featherstone *[holding answer 18 October 2010]:* There is currently no national database which records the number of female genital mutilation (FGM) cases reported in the UK. However, Project Azure, a specialist unit within the Metropolitan Police, has been flagging

FGM incidents since 2006, during which time they have recorded 166 possible cases of FGM.

Research suggests a number of barriers to reporting incidents of FGM including the age and understanding of the victim and pressure from the family or wider community.

No estimate has been made of the number of girls taken overseas to undergo FGM. In summer 2010, Project Azure ran a campaign to raise awareness of FGM with families travelling back to practicing countries. Officers operated in Terminal 4, Heathrow airport, in plain clothes with a view to identifying proactively those girls who may have been at risk of being taken out of the UK for FGM. The initiative also sought to raise awareness with those communities about the implications of FGM. Findings from this initiative are currently being assessed and will determine any follow-up enquiries with girls identified as being at risk of FGM.

Firearms

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 20 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 199W, on firearms, if she will ask the National Ballistics Intelligence Service to extend its research into the acquisition and use of shotguns by criminals to cover handguns. [16412]

James Brokenshire: The National Ballistics Intelligence Service (NABIS) prepares and delivers a range of problem profiles and intelligence assessments to UK law enforcement organisations. The subjects covered by these problem profiles and assessments are informed by the Service's ongoing work to identify emerging threats and trends related to the criminal use of firearms.

In 2009-10, provisional data on firearm offences recorded by the police indicate that just under half of all firearm offences involved handguns. Therefore it is already the case that a significant proportion of the research and other work of NABIS is focused on the criminal use and acquisition of handguns.

Firearms: Arrests

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many arrests there were in connection with firearms in Dartford constituency in the last three years; and how many such arrests resulted in convictions for which a prison sentence of five years or more was imposed. [17353]

James Brokenshire: The information requested on arrests is not collected centrally.

The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, covering categories such as violence against the person and robbery.

It is not possible to separately identify which arrests under these offence categories were firearms related.

Information on defendants proceeded against, found guilty, sentenced to immediate custody of which five years or more was imposed and total sentenced for firearms offences in Kent police force area and England and Wales, provided by the Ministry of Justice, is provided in the table.

Data broken down to Dartford constituency area are not available.

Data on court sentencing in 2009 are planned for publication on 21 October 2010.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts, found guilty at all courts, and sentenced to immediate custody, of which more than five years, for firearms offences[1] in the Kent police force area and England and Wales, 2006 to 2008[2, 3, 4]

	2006	2007	2008
Kent police force area			
Proceeded against	55	61	79
Found guilty	44	50	61
Sentenced	46	52	60
Immediate custody	18	16	23
of which:			
More than five years	3	3	2
England and Wales			
Proceeded against	2,679	2,696	2,481
Found guilty	2,023	2,113	2,050
Sentenced	2,033	2,122	2,054
Immediate custody	756	767	918
of which:			
More than five years	121	132	186

[1] Includes the following: Possession of firearms. Firearm certificate related offences, and Miscellaneous firearms offences.

[2] The figures given in the table relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] The sentenced column may exceed those found guilty as it may be the case that a defendant found guilty, and committed for sentence at the Crown court, may be sentenced in the following year.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services in the Ministry of Justice.

Firearms: Children

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children aged *(a)* 10, *(b)* 11, *(c)* 12, *(d)* 13, *(e)* 14, *(f)* 15, *(g)* 16 and *(h)* 17 have been granted shotgun licences in each authority area in (i) England, (ii) Scotland and (iii) Wales in the most recent year for which figures are available. [10019]

James Brokenshire: The provided data are provisional and relate to the number of shotgun certificates held by persons aged under 18 years as at 7 September 2010 within the police force areas covering England and Wales. The information was extracted from the National Firearms Licensing Management System by the National Policing Improvement Agency and is subject to change. Such data are normally used for management and operational information only, and are not subject to the detailed quality checks applied to datasets used for National Statistics publications.

Shotgun certificates are renewable every five years. Therefore the certificates referred to in the following table will have been issued between 2005 and 2010.

Data relating to firearm and shotgun certificates issued by police forces in Scotland are submitted to, and published by, the Scottish Government.

Number of shotgun certificates held by under-18s on 7 September 2010 by police force area: England and Wales

								Age at last birthday (years)	
	10	*11*	*12*	*13*	*14*	*15*	*16*	*17*	*Total*
Avon and Somerset	4	1	5	4	19	38	46	72	189
Bedfordshire	0	2	3	1	7	4	11	19	47
Cambridgeshire	2	0	9	17	18	23	44	50	163
Cheshire	0	4	3	3	10	28	20	29	97
City of London	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cleveland	0	0	0	1	3	2	4	8	18
Cumbria	1	3	5	5	13	25	37	50	139
Derbyshire	0	2	4	4	8	14	25	42	99
Devon and Cornwall	1	5	5	9	31	47	70	126	294
Dorset	0	0	2	3	4	14	29	27	79
Durham	0	1	1	1	5	4	27	21	60
Dyfed Powys	1	0	0	7	11	17	39	43	118
Essex	1	0	10	11	18	55	62	79	236
Gloucestershire	1	0	1	3	7	6	26	23	67
Greater Manchester	1	2	1	0	6	5	12	22	49
Gwent	0	1	0	2	0	5	7	13	28
Hampshire	0	3	2	11	12	27	49	68	172
Hertfordshire	0	1	3	6	5	15	18	23	71
Humberside	0	1	0	0	5	16	27	33	82
Kent	2	2	4	5	18	19	35	62	147
Lancashire	1	10	5	6	22	25	37	47	153
Leicestershire	1	0	2	5	7	15	23	26	79
Lincolnshire	1	2	3	8	10	30	40	46	140
Merseyside	0	0	1	4	0	2	4	7	18
Metropolitan	2	4	2	5	13	20	30	44	120
Norfolk	0	2	7	13	29	41	76	78	246
North Wales	0	0	0	2	6	9	22	21	60
North Yorkshire	1	5	5	11	12	45	54	63	196
Northamptonshire	1	1	5	3	2	13	24	44	93
Northumbria	0	1	4	7	6	11	19	28	76
Nottinghamshire	0	2	3	4	5	9	20	23	66
South Wales	0	1	1	4	5	7	12	20	50
South Yorkshire	1	0	1	2	6	12	27	25	74
Staffordshire	0	0	2	2	9	13	24	30	80
Suffolk	0	5	6	13	30	39	45	60	198
Surrey	0	1	8	7	16	26	37	32	127
Sussex	2	1	8	10	25	31	53	84	214
Thames Valley	0	3	4	14	16	41	51	87	216
Warwickshire	1	1	2	2	5	20	16	34	81
West Mercia	0	2	5	5	14	23	58	95	202
West Midlands	1	3	0	4	5	9	12	19	53
West Yorkshire	0	0	1	3	7	11	23	30	75
Wiltshire	0	0	1	4	11	19	35	57	127
Total	26	72	134	231	461	835	1,330	1,810	4,899

Note:

The data are provisional and subject to further quality assurance. They are normally for management and operational information only, and are not subject to the detailed quality checks that apply for National Statistics publications. The data represent the total number of shotgun certificates held on the system, for under 18 year olds, on 7 September 2010.

Freedom of Information Act 2000: Compliance

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to improve its level of compliance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [16939]

Lynne Featherstone *[holding answer 13 October 2010]:* The Home Office has recognised that its performance in handling Freedom of Information requests must improve. We have taken a number of steps to achieve this, including a full review of the process for handling requests and better monitoring and reporting procedures. These measures have led to an increase in each of the last three months in the proportion of requests answered within the deadline, which we are confident will be sustained.

Immobilisation of Vehicles

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will assess the merits of introducing legislative proposals for a right of appeal against seizure and removal of vehicles under Section 59 of the Police Reform Act 2002. [17725]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 18 October 2010]:* We have no plans to introduce such a right. Section 59 enables the police to seize a vehicle they reasonably believe is being driven both carelessly or inconsiderately on-road or off-road without authority and in a way that causes or is likely to cause alarm, distress or annoyance. This power of seizure can only be used in carefully restricted circumstances and following a warning. A vehicle that has been seized must be released immediately on payment of a prescribed sum intended only to cover police costs and this payment is waived if the owner is not personally at fault. When introducing the legislation the then Minister formally declared it compatible with the provisions of the Human Rights Act 1988.

The remedy for any person who wishes to challenge the police's decision to seize their vehicle is an action in the county court for trespass to goods. It is also open to them, if they believe the police acted in any way improperly, to make a formal complaint against the police.

Offensive Weapons: West Midlands

Paul Uppal: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences involving *(a)* knives and *(b)* firearms were recorded in Wolverhampton South West constituency in 2009-10. [18007]

James Brokenshire: Data on knife and firearms offences are collected by the Home Office at police force area level. They cannot be broken down to constituency area level.

In 2009-10, 3,216 offences involving the use of a knife or sharp instrument were recorded by West Midlands police. This figure includes unbroken bottle and unbroken glass offences.

Prior to April 2010, West Midlands police was one of four police forces that included unbroken bottle and glass offences in their knife and sharp instrument data returns to the Home Office, which are outside the scope of this collection.

From April 2010, West Midlands have aligned their recording practice with the national definition and now exclude these unbroken bottle and glass offences.

2009-10 data for police recorded firearms offences will be published in January 2011.

Police: Procurement

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent reviews she has undertaken of efficiencies in police procurement. [17339]

Nick Herbert: In Policing in the 21st Century: Reconnecting the police and the people, the Government have made clear that its approach to police value for money will involve ending the practice of procuring things in 43 different ways when it makes no sense to do so either operationally or financially. The Government are considering responses to the consultation paper "Obtaining Better Value for Money from Police Procurement" which set out proposals for regulations to mandate the police service to use specified contractual arrangements to purchase particular equipment and services.

The joint report from HM Inspectorate of Constabulary, the Audit Commission and the Wales Audit Office, "Sustaining value for money in the police service", published on 20 July, identified opportunities for the police service to save money through greater efficiency, including better procurement. Sir Philip Green's efficiency review, published on 11 October, has also highlighted the potential to save substantial sums through better procurement across government.

Police: Surveillance

Harriett Baldwin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to review the administrative burden on the police consequent on the requirements of *(a)* the Office of Surveillance Commissioners and *(b)* the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000. [16828]

James Brokenshire: The Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 ('RIPA') requires that public authorities using covert techniques to obtain private information keep detailed records against which they can be independently inspected, any error rectified and suitable redress made. The Home Office continue to liaise with the Office of Surveillance Commissioners and the police to minimise any unnecessary bureaucracy associated with authorisation under RIPA.

Sexual Offences: Convictions

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been *(a)* arrested, *(b)* charged, *(c)* prosecuted and *(d)* convicted in respect of offences under section 53A of the Sexual Offences Act 2003. [17980]

James Brokenshire: The number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts in England and Wales for the years 2004 to 2008 (latest available), for the offence 'controlling prostitution for gain' under section 53 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003, can be viewed in the table. The Sexual Offences Act 2003 came into force on 1 May 2004. Court proceedings data for 2009 will be published on 21 October 2010.

The above information was provided by the Ministry of Justice. The information requested on arrests is not collected centrally. The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, covering categories such as sexual offences and robbery.

Defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty[1], [2] at all courts for offences under section 53 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003[3], [4], England and Wales, 2004 to 2008

Number

	Proceeded against	Found guilty[5]
2004	1	
2005	12	3
2006	18	11
2007	23	24
2008[6]	24	31

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] The Sexual Offences Act 2003 came into force on 1 may 2004.

[4] The following corresponding offence description is used: Controlling prostitution for gain.

The number of defendants found guilty in a particular year may exceed the number proceeded against as the proceedings in the magistrates court took place in an earlier year and the defendants were found guilty at the Crown court in the following year; or the defendants were found guilty of a different offence to that for which they were originally proceeded against.

Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Disclosure of Information: Homicide

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Attorney-General what guidance the Crown Prosecution Service issues on disclosure to the families of alleged victims of manslaughter of the content of discussions on possible charges with prosecuting authorities in other EU member states. [17736]

The Attorney-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) does not have specific guidance on this issue.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Benefit

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effects of the proposal to withdraw child benefit from households where a parent earns over £44,000 per year on women who look after children full-time and receive national insurance credits towards their state pension through child benefit. [18091]

Steve Webb: We are considering the details of the changes announced to child benefit. We will be assessing this in the coming weeks to ensure that no-one misses out on national insurance credits towards their state pension.

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of women who will receive a reduction in their state pension as a result of the Government's proposed changes to child benefit. [18269]

Steve Webb: We are considering the details of the changes announced to child benefit. We will be assessing this in the coming weeks to ensure that noone misses out on national insurance credits towards their state pension.

Construction: Accidents

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many accidents have been recorded in the construction industry in each year since 2004. [17559]

Chris Grayling: Notifications of workplace injuries occurring in Great Britain are made under RIDDOR - the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995. The following table provides the total number of RIDDOR injury notifications in the construction industry for the period 2004-05 to 2008-09.

Employment status	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Workers	12,853	12,916	12,451	12,675	11,368
Members of the public	208	204	198	198	200
Total	13,061	13,120	12,649	12,873	11,568

Notes:

1. The annual basis of RIDDOR recording is the planning year from 1 April to 31 March.

2. The construction industry is identified by Standard Industrial Classification (SIC), the system used in UK official statistics for classifying businesses by the type of activity they are engaged in. The version used in these statistics is SIC 2003.

Construction: Public Finance

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the cost of construction industry to the public purse in the latest period for which figures are available. [18257]

Maria Miller: Remploy's grant in aid funding is published each year in Remploy's Annual Report and Accounts, copies of which are available in Libraries of both Houses. In 2008-09 Remploy received £121.5 million in operational funding and £34 million in modernisation funding.

Remploy's 2009-10 Annual Report and Accounts will be published in the autumn.

Disability Living Allowance: Medical Examinations

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what assistance will be offered by his Department to those who are found fit for work after a medical assessment for disability living allowance; [13489]

(2) whether disability living allowance claimants will be allowed to *(a)* see the results of their medical assessments and *(b)* dispute the results of medical assessments with evidence from a medical practitioner; [13490]

(3) what criteria other than medical assessments his Department will use to determine eligibility for disability living allowance from 2013-14; [13491]

(4) whether children under the age of 16 will have to undergo a medical assessment for disability living allowance; [13492]

(5) whether existing disability living allowance (DLA) claimants will be required to undergo the new medical assessment for DLA; [13493]

(6) whether those whose disability prevents them from being mobile will be required to undergo the medical assessment for disability living allowance; [13494]

(7) whether those who are classified as having severe disabilities will be required to undergo the medical assessment for disability living allowance. [13495]

Maria Miller: The Chancellor announced in the Emergency Budget that the Government will introduce a new assessment for DLA from 2013-14. It has been determined that the new assessment will be a more accurate, objective and consistent assessment to identify those claimants who would benefit most from additional support. DLA is not linked to the ability to work and is paid to claimants who are both in and out of work.

Existing working-age claimants will undergo a new assessment. To support the Department in the development of that new assessment, we are consulting with an independent group of specialists comprising of disabled people, relevant health professionals and others with expertise in this area to develop options for a new assessment.

We will begin a consultation process on the new proposals later this year.

Equality: Public Finance

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to publish equality impact assessments undertaken by his Department as part of the comprehensive spending review; and if he will make a statement. [18033]

Chris Grayling: Work is under way to carry out equality impact assessments as part of the development of spending review options, and these will be made public in due course.

Industrial Health and Safety

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent discussions his Department has had with representatives of the construction industry on health and safety regulation. [17556]

Chris Grayling: Since assuming ministerial responsibility for health and safety at work, I have had a meeting covering construction health and safety with members of the Health and Safety Executive's (HSE) Small Business Trade Association Forum on 22 September.

HSE officials meet regularly with the construction industry. These contacts include meetings of HSE's Construction Industry Advisory Committee and its working groups and with industry stakeholders on specific issues.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Graduates

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has made a recent estimate of the number of people in receipt of jobseeker's allowance in *(a)* Scotland and *(b)* Kilmarnock and Loudoun constituency who graduated from (i) university in 2010 and (ii) a teacher training institution in each of the last three years. [17130]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated October 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking for an estimate of the number of people in receipt of jobseeker's allowance in (a) Scotland and (b) Kilmarnock and Loudoun constituency who graduated from (i) university in 2010 and (ii) a teacher training institution in each of the last three years. (17130)

The Office for National Statistics' (ONS) preferred source of statistics for claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) is Jobcentre Plus administrative system. However, this source does not contain data on educational achievement.

An alternative data source for claimants of JSA is the Annual Population Survey (APS). Whilst the APS does collect data on educational achievement no reliable statistics can be produced for the requested breakdowns due to small sample sizes.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Maternity Pay: Adoption

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent representations he has received on the extension of maternity pay to adoptive parents; and if he will make a statement. [17645]

Mr Davey: I have been asked to reply as statutory adoption pay falls within my portfolio.

Adopters already benefit from a right to adoption leave and pay. Eligible adopters are entitled to 52 weeks' adoption leave (the same as maternity leave). During adoption leave, eligible adopters will receive 39 weeks' statutory adoption pay, paid at the same standard rate as statutory maternity pay.

Public Bodies

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his plans are for the future of Remploy Ltd. [18258]

Maria Miller: Remploy plays an important part in the provision of employment support for severely disabled people. As announced in the review of public bodies on 14 October, the status of Remploy Ltd as an NDPB remains under consideration.

Social Security Benefits: Stirling

Mrs McGuire: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many individuals in Stirling constituency receive more than £26,000 a year in benefits, excluding child benefit and disability living allowance. [17382]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not available at a parliamentary constituency level.

The information is available for Great Britain. £26,000 a year is equivalent to £500 a week. Latest estimates show that in 2010-11 there are fewer than 25,000 working age households in receipt of more than £500 a week in all benefits and tax credits, excluding disability living allowance and child benefit.

The Chancellor's announcement of a benefit cap was informed by high-level consideration of the broad impacts when developing the policy. The Government will set out more details on the cap on total welfare that workless families can receive in the spending review.

All disability living allowance claimants, war widows, and working families claiming the working tax credit will be exempt from the cap. The cap will apply to the combined income from the main income replacement benefits, other means tested benefits, child benefit and child tax credit and other benefits such as carer's allowance and industrial injury disablement benefit.

Source:

DWP Policy Simulation Model, based on the 2008-09 Family Resources Survey data.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Coal-fired Power Stations: Scotland

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions his Department has had with the Scottish Executive on the regulation of carbon dioxide emission rates from coal-fired power stations. [17112]

Gregory Barker: The Department is having ongoing constructive dialogue with the Scottish Executive. In addition, we will be working closely with the Scottish Ministers to ensure a complementary approach towards new coal capacity across Great Britain, including taking forward the commitment made in the coalition's programme for Government, to establish an emissions performance standard that would prevent coal-fired power stations being built without the provision of carbon capture and storage (CCS) to enable them to comply with our emissions performance standard (EPS).

Fuel Poverty

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate he has made of the number and proportion of households in *(a)* East Hampshire constituency and *(b)* the county of Hampshire which are in fuel poverty. [18191]

Gregory Barker: In 2006, the most recent year for which sub-regional figures are available, there were around 3,400 (8%) fuel poor households in the East Hampshire constituency and 56,700 (8%) in the county of Hampshire. The county of Hampshire figures quoted include the unitary authorities of Portsmouth and Southampton, which had around 7,700 and 9,100 fuel poor households respectively in 2006.

The number of fuel poor households in England in 2006 was 2.4 million. However, DECC recently published statistics which show that there were 3.3 million households in fuel poverty in 2008.

Fuel Poverty: Bexleyheath

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to help reduce fuel poverty in Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency. [17687]

Gregory Barker: Government are committed to helping those households who are in fuel poverty. We recognise the need to help more of the most vulnerable to keep their homes warm at an affordable cost, and have in place a number of policies and programmes which can help them to do so.

The Warm Front scheme provides a range of insulation and heating measures to vulnerable households and provides advice on benefit entitlement. Measures provided include energy efficient heating systems, cavity wall insulation, loft insulation and draught proofing. Since its inception in June 2000, Warm Front has assisted 2,290 households in the Constituency of Bexleyheath and Crayford up to 17 August 2010.

The Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) extension and Super Priority Group, which focuses on vulnerable groups within the existing priority group, will have a positive impact on fuel poverty, with approximately 175,000 households expected to be removed from fuel poverty. Many more will receive measures which will protect them from falling into fuel poverty. CERT is an obligation on energy suppliers to achieve targets for promoting reductions in carbon emissions in the household sector.

Geo-engineering

David Mowat: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his Department's policy is on the use of geo-engineering to combat the effects of climate change; and whether his Department has provided funding for any such activities in the past 12 months. [18099]

Gregory Barker: The Department's first priority is to tackle human causes of climate change at source by reducing emissions of greenhouse gases and pushing for strong international action to achieve this goal. However, we recognise that geo-engineering might have a role to play at some future stage and research is needed to understand the risks and benefits. Over the past year, the Department has provided a total of £136,228 to fund computer modelling research at the Met Office Hadley Centre to investigate the impacts of injecting aerosols into the stratosphere.

Renewable Energy

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate he has made of the *(a)* annual operating leak rate of fluorocarbons from heat pumps and *(b)* percentage of the refrigerant likely to be vented at end-of-life disposal. [17765]

Gregory Barker: We have discussed these issues with the industry and with DEFRA who are responsible for F-Gas Support, a business support unit that helps organisations affected by the fluorinated gas (F gas) regulatory regime. We are satisfied that the risk of leakage of fluorocarbons during or at the end of operation of hermetically sealed heat pumps is very small. Typically residual amounts, 1% or 2% of the system volume, might remain after refrigerant removal. This can increase to around 5% to 10% for very large, non-hermetically sealed, industrial heat pumps, where there is more scope of leakage through mechanical joints. Further information on heat pumps will be made available shortly when DEFRA publish a report on HFC consumption and emissions forecasting.

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of *(a)* the average cost of the installation of air source heat pumps, including the cost of domestic adaptation, *(b)* the average assessed service life of an air source heat pump and *(c)* the length of time it would take for the installation of an air source heat pump to result in a net saving for a householder. [17766]

Gregory Barker: The installation cost of an air source heat pump (ASHP) in the domestic sector depends on the size and characteristics of the property in which the heat pump is installed. Our most recent analysis shows that total ASHP installation costs are usually in the range of £7,000 to £12,000. The costs for large homes could be significantly higher if the heat demand exceeds the capacity of the electrical supply and system reinforcement is required.

The payback period for ASHPs depends on the fuel which they displace (that is, the counterfactual), usage and the operating efficiency of the equipment. There could be significant differences between installations. Assuming an operating efficiency of 250% to 275% and an installation cost of around £9,000 to £10,000, payback periods could range from eight to 16 years[1] when replacing electric heating. Payback periods are longer when the counterfactual is a less expensive off-grid fuel, such as heating oil and coal. In the case of natural gas, the cheapest heating fuel, the payback may be longer than the expected life of the heat pump. The industry believe the life of a heat pump is at least 20 years but this has yet to be independently verified.

[1] Payback periods are calculated using illustrative data on costs and heat pump performance and are calculated by dividing the full capital costs of the renewable equipment by the relevant fuel savings.

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the potential contribution to global warming of the use of the refrigerants *(a)* R404A, *(b)* R407C, *(c)* R410A and (d) R134a in heat pumps. [17767]

Gregory Barker: Refrigerants are very powerful greenhouse gases. Compared to carbon dioxide, which has a global warming potential (GWP) of 1, the GWP of the following refrigerant gases are as follows:

	GWP
R404A	3,800
R407C	1,525
R410A	1,725
R134A	1,300

However, in my answer given to question 17765, I explained that we are satisfied the risk of any significant refrigerant leakage from heat pumps is negligible. Their contribution to global warming is therefore proportionately small. The energy and carbon benefits from a well designed heat pump will almost entirely outweigh any impact from small releases of F gas. Nonetheless, given the global warming potential of R404A, we would expect heat pump manufacturers to avoid using this particular gas wherever possible.

Renewable Energy: Feed-in Tariffs

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has made an estimate of the cost to the public purse of making eligible for the proposed higher rate feed-in tariff those who installed microgeneration equipment under the Low Carbon Buildings Programme before 15 July 2009. [17436]

Gregory Barker: The potential additional costs of extending feed-in tariffs (FITs) to sub-50 kW installations prior to 15 July 2009 was the key consideration in our review of the FITs scheme as it relates to early adopters of small-scale, low-carbon electricity generating technology.

The Department estimated that allowing all[1] existing generators to claim FITs at full rate, without repaying grants would represent a discounted cost in the order of £55.9 million to 2020 and an annual cost in 2020 of £4.25 million[2]. In addition to these costs there would be additional administrative costs to DECC, Ofgem and suppliers. In practice, these administrative costs would have increased, had such a policy also included a requirement to repay some or all of any grant.

Extending FITs to existing installations would increase the costs of the scheme, without encouraging additional installations, which is the primary objective of the FITs scheme. We do not think that this represents value for money and cannot therefore justify the additional cost to consumers, who ultimately pay for the scheme. Therefore, after careful consideration, we decided that the scheme as it relates to early adopters should remain unchanged.

[1] These figures are based on estimated numbers of sub-50kW installations prior to 15 July 2009 that received grants from the following programmes: Clear Skies, LCBP1, LCBP2 and the Major PV Demo Programme.

[2] Costs are presented in 2009 prices, discounted. Costs are net FITs subsidy costs, i.e. net of the value of exports to suppliers. Admin costs of administering a higher number of FIT installations have not been included here. Costs assume that existing generators would be paid FITs for the full installation lifetime. Cost estimations should be caveated, as we do not know the precise number of existing generators and which technologies/scales they have invested in.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Broadband

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the contribution of the implementation of the Wireless Telegraphy Act 2006 (Directions to OFCOM) Order 2010 to his Department's objectives on broadband; and if he will make a statement. [17522]

Mr Vaizey: I have been asked to reply in my capacity as a Minister in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Implementing this order would result in Ofcom taking action to implement the EU's revised GSM Directive and Radio Spectrum Committee decision that liberalises the 900 and 1800 MHz spectrum to enable 3G services to be rolled out in that spectrum. The action to convert existing 3G licences to an indefinite period will also provide certainty to the current mobile operators to enable them to invest further in developing their 3G networks. Finally, the release of new spectrum through a combined auction of 800 MHz and 2600 MHz will further assist the transition to next generation superfast broadband. All of these actions will be important steps in our objective of developing the UK's broadband networks.

Departmental Equality

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what plans he has to publish equality impact assessments undertaken by his Department as part of the comprehensive spending review; and if he will make a statement. [18031]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: My Department will publish a statement on 21 October on how fairness and equality have been considered during the comprehensive spending review.

We will continue to undertake and publish formal equality impact assessments for new or significantly changing areas of policy as they emerge.

Digital Broadcasting

Nick Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he plans to require broadcasters to increase to 20% the proportion of their programming which has audio description; and if he will make a statement. [16599]

Mr Vaizey: The Government have no plans to increase the statutory 10% target for audio description at this time. Following careful consideration of Ofcom's recent review of TV access services in the UK and the voluntary commitments made by a number of major broadcasters to audio describe 20% of their programming we have concluded that further regulation is not required at this time. We have asked Ofcom to continue to monitor levels of audio description provision and asked them to report to Government if the average level falls below the current levels. We will then consider whether to review the targets, or invite Ofcom to review and make recommendations.

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will commission research to assess *(a)* the power consumption of DAB receivers, *(b)* the prevalence of the use of DAB+ with the AAC codec and *(c)* the effectiveness of digital reception in cars; and if he will make a statement. [18271]

Mr Vaizey: The Government have already commissioned and published independent research into the energy efficiency of digital radio. This research has been published on the DCMS website, and can be found at:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/images/publications/digitalradios_energyconsumption_report.pdf

In addition, we are currently conducting further research in this area and will publish the results early next year.

We are not aware of any mainstream UK-based broadcasters currently broadcasting on DAB+. Therefore, any research into the usage of DAB+ in the UK is unlikely to provide any meaningful information.

The effectiveness of DAB reception in vehicles was tested as part of the Digital Radio Working Group in 2008. To build on this initial research, the Digital Radio Action Plan, published in July this year, set out the process for a specific examination of in-vehicle receiver and aerial sensitivities; it is due to report findings by the end of next year.

Local Broadcasting: Radio

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to encourage community radio. [17775]

Mr Vaizey: The Department has made up to £500,000 a year available since 2004 to support the community radio sector, through the Community Radio Fund. In recent years we have also allocated funds to the Community Media Association from within that funding to support its work in promoting best practice within the community media sector and encouraging self-sustainability.

In addition, the Community Radio (Amendment) Order 2010 relaxed the existing licensing and regulatory regime to promote a more sustainable community radio sector.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will take steps to increase the availability of community radio licences. [17776]

Mr Vaizey: The licensing of community radio stations is a matter for Ofcom, which works independently of Government. While demand for new community radio licences is high, available analogue spectrum is scarce. We understand that Ofcom has not yet made a decision on whether to conduct a further round of community radio licensing.

Local Broadcasting: Television

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with the partners of the Canvas joint venture on access to the Canvas platform for local television channels. [17749]

Mr Vaizey: The Secretary of State has held discussions with a number of the Canvas (now YouView) partners to discuss the potential for local television in the UK. However these discussions were not specifically regarding any access local television would have to the YouView platform.

Nicholas Shott is currently conducting his independent review of local TV in the UK and will present the Secretary of State with his final conclusions by early December, which will be published on the DCMS website.

Museums and Galleries: Fees and Charges

Alison McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had on free entry to national museums; and if he will make a statement. [17454]

Mr Vaizey: We have had no discussions. In line with the coalition manifesto there are no plans to review the policy of free admission to national museums and galleries.

Olympic Games 2012: Finance

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what his most recent estimate is of the cost to the public purse of hosting the teams competing in the London 2012 Olympic games. [17989]

Hugh Robertson: The majority of costs that are necessary to host the teams competing in the London 2012 games, for example, construction of an Olympic Village where teams will stay during the games, a park and venues for them to compete in, and games-time security costs, are provided for within the £9.3 billion public sector funding package.

DCMS publishes quarterly economic reports setting out how the public sector funding package is being used. Other costs, for example, for running the Village during games-time, fall to the London Organising Committee of the 2012 Olympic games and Paralympic games (LOCOG), which is a private company.

There are potentially costs falling to those local authorities and other public bodies that are hosting pre-games training camps. Costs outside the public sector funding package will lie where they fall.

Regional Screen Agency

Jake Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what plans his Department has for the Regional Screen Agency. [18129]

Mr Vaizey: The Department is not directly involved in the restructuring of regional screen agencies which are private companies. However, we would welcome the principle of a more simple and efficient framework.

S4C

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what *(a)* discussions and *(b)* correspondence he has had with each representative of S4C between 6 May and 8 June 2010; and if he will publish that correspondence. [17024]

Mr Vaizey: In May 2010, the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media, and Sport discussed a reduction in funding with the chair of S4C—as part of the £6 billion efficiency savings.

Further to a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act on 15 June, correspondence and details of discussions with the Secretary of State and officials were partially released on 15 September 2010.

Copies of these documents will be placed in the House Libraries

Television

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will take steps to ensure Project Canvas does not inhibit the development of new local television companies. [18039]

Mr Vaizey: Internet Protocol Television (IPTV) services such as Canvas (now YouView) are currently being developed.

Nicholas Shott, Head of UK Investment Banking at Lazard, is currently conducting a review on the conditions that will allow commercially sustainable local television to emerge in the UK.

His interim findings said that local TV is over time likely to "naturally migrate" to IPTV. He called IPTV:

> "the best delivery means for local TV"

and as such, IPTV services are likely to present an opportunity for viewers to access more local material because of the flexibility the platform will offer.

Nicholas Shott will present the Secretary of State with his final conclusions by early December, in which he will look further at IPTV and other issues. This will be published on the Department's website.

Television: Finance

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will take steps to ensure that the development of new television channels does not receive public subsidy. [18038]

Mr Vaizey: The Secretary of State has asked Nicholas Shott, Head of UK Investment Banking at Lazard, to conduct a review of the conditions that will allow commercially sustainable local television to emerge in the UK without direct public subsidy.

Nicholas Shott will present the Secretary of State with his final conclusions by early December, which will be published on the Department's website.

Television: Licensing

Stephen Mosley: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many households in City of Chester constituency claim a free television licence; and how many such households include a higher rate taxpayer. [17319]

Mr Vaizey: The Department does not collect data on the number of free licences claimed. This is a matter for the BBC, although I understand the BBC does not hold such data broken down by constituency.

Television: Hearing Impairment

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he has had any recent discussions about the provision of interpreter services for deaf or hard of hearing television viewers. [16918]

Mr Vaizey: The Government understands the importance of subtitling and signing services to deaf or hard of hearing television viewers and I have had a number of discussions on issues affecting television viewers, including the provision of Access Services.

Video Recordings Act 1984

Jake Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what representations he has received on reform of the Video Recordings Act 1984 to end the requirement of film distributors to receive a classification certificate from the British Board of Film Classification for films in respect of which they wish to accept a voluntary 18 certificate. [18131]

Mr Vaizey: The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport has received two representations, from members of the public, on reforming the Video Recordings Act 1984 to this end.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Electoral Register

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what his policy is on the practice of local authorities in seeking the prosecution of those who have not registered on the electoral roll. [17155]

Mr Harper: There is no legal duty on individuals to register to vote and the Government have no plans to introduce one. However, there is a legal requirement on individuals to supply information to registration officers if required to do so, and it is an offence not to comply with that requirement. Whether to pursue a failure to supply information and to seek prosecution in a given case is a matter for the individual registration officer, the police and the relevant prosecuting authority.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Affordable Housing: Finance

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the evidential basis is for his Department's estimate of the contribution from the public purse to keep people in affordable homes; what estimate he has made of the total annual cost to the public purse; which elements of public expenditure he has included in the calculation; and how this figure was arrived at. [17190]

Andrew Stunell: There are two types of housing subsidy, 'capital subsidy' provided through the National Affordable Housing Programme (NAHP) and sub-market rents in the social sector, and 'personal subsidy' through housing benefit.

In 2009-10 we spent £3.3 billion (in England) on the NAHP for the provision of new affordable homes and wider housing programmes. Research carried out by Professor Steve Wilcox for CLG estimated that in national terms in 2007-08 the annual economic subsidy of providing sub-market rents in the social sector was £3.67 billion for the local authority sector, and £3.38 billion for the Housing Association sector.[1]

In 2009-10 £12.4 billion (in Great Britain—figure provided by DWP) was spent on housing benefit for social sector tenants.

CLG and DWP's budget for 2011-12 to 2014-15 is being considered as part of the spending review.

[1] *Source:*

Analysis of Rents for the Review of Council Housing Finance—Professor Steve Wilcox:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/pdf/1290130.pdf

Allotments

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will make an assessment of the appropriate amount of land to be set aside for use as allotment land for each category of population density; and if he will make a statement. [18046]

Andrew Stunell: It is up to local authorities to assess the needs of their community and ascertain what is a sufficient number of allotments for their local area.

Anti-Semitism

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which directorate of his Department has responsibility for the *(a)* formulation and *(b)* implementation of policy on reducing the incidence of anti-Semitism; how many officials at each pay band in his Department are employed in each such directorate; what other posts in his Department each such official has held; and if he will make a statement. [17384]

Andrew Stunell: The Communities and Neighbourhoods Directorate in the Department of Communities and Local Government is responsible for the formulation and in partnership with other Departments the implementation of policy on reducing the incidence of anti-Semitism. The Department's work on anti-Semitism falls under the auspices of the team that works on hate crime and all other forms of hatred and intolerance. This team is made up of three officials, one at pay band 6.1, one at pay band 4.3 and one at pay band 3.2. All three have held a range of previous positions across Government including the Home Office, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and Government Office for London.

Building Regulations: Public Consultation

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will publish the responses received to Question 86 of his Department's building regulations consultation referred to on page 178 of Proposals for amending Part L and Part F of the Building Regulations Summary of Responses, dated 1 April 2010. [16773]

Andrew Stunell: The Department received over 400 responses to the Part L and F consultation and, having published a comprehensive Summary of Responses, has no plans to publish the individual responses to the 113 questions in the consultation document. We will, however, provide copies of individual responses on request, in accordance with confidentiality, data protection and freedom of information requirements.

The majority of respondents to Question 86 felt that circulator pumps should have a minimum band C rating. However, from 2013 there will be a mandatory EU-wide requirement under the energy using products directive for all circulator pumps placed on the market to be band A. The main trade association for the UK pump market argued that it would be unreasonable to expect pump manufacturers to modify designs twice in just over a two-year period.

It was therefore decided that the Part L guidance from October 2010 should be that circulator pumps should have an A to G energy label, as this would be an effective way of encouraging consumers to choose energy efficient products without imposing an undue burden on manufacturers already preparing for 2013.

Departmental Equality

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has to publish equality impact assessments undertaken by his Department as part of the comprehensive spending review; and if he will make a statement. [18030]

Andrew Stunell: The Department is following guidance issued by the Government Equalities Office on publishing its equality impact assessments (EqIAs) as part of the Spending Review.

The results of the EqIAs will be published in due course once the Spending Review has been announced.

Empty Dwelling Management and Enforced Sale Procedure Orders

Mr Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how long on average it has taken from application to the granting of an *(a)* empty dwelling management and *(b)* enforced sale procedures order in each local authority area since 2006. [17619]

Andrew Stunell: Information on the time taken from application to the granting of an empty dwelling management order (EDMO) is not held centrally. EDMOs are authorised by the Residential Property Tribunal Service and the target set by the Department under the last Government for dealing with all Housing Act 2004 cases is 75% of applications should be determined within 15 weeks and 90% of decisions issued within four weeks after that.

Information on enforced sale procedures is not collected.

Empty Property: East of England

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* privately-owned and *(b)* social sector homes in (i) Peterborough and (ii) the East of England were vacant in each of the last 12 quarters for which figures are available; and how many of those homes had been vacant for more than six months. [17847]

Andrew Stunell: The following table shows the total number and proportion of dwellings that were vacant (i) for any length of time and (ii) for more than six months in Peterborough Unitary Authority (UA) area and the East of England region in each of the last three years. Separate figures are included for local authority-owned and Registered Social Landlord (RSL) dwellings. Comparable information on the number of private sector vacant dwellings is not held centrally.

Figures for RSLs include 'general needs' self-contained stock and exclude bed spaces, 'supported housing' and 'housing for older people'. For which vacancy estimates are not available below the England level. 'General needs' self-contained stock accounts for approximately 80% of the RSL sector.

	All tenures		*Local authority*[1]		*Registered social landlord*[2, 3]	
	Number	*%*	*Number*	*%*	*Number*	*%*
2007						
Peterborough UA						
All vacants	2,179.	3.0	—	—	156	1.4
Vacant for > six months	610	0.8	—	—	74	0.7
East of England						
All vacants	69,107	2.8	2,492	1.3	1,836	1.2
Vacant for > 6 months	24,704	1.0	698	0.4	1,010	9.6
2008						
Peterborough UA						
All vacants	2,517	3.4	—	—	110	1.0
Vacant for > six months	766	1.0	—	—	78	0.7
East of England						
All vacants	72,773	3.0	2,040	1.3	1,888	1.0
Vacant for > six months	26,255	1.1	689	0.4	1,224	0.7
2009						
Peterborough UA						
All vacants	2,590	3.4	—	—	90	0.8
Vacant for > six months	854	1.1	—	—	67	0.6
East of England						
All vacants	72,891	2.9	2,595	1.6	2,137	1.2
Vacant for > six months	25,921	1.0	685	0.4	1,342	0.7

[1] These figures relate to stock owned by a local authority regardless of whether it is located within that local authority's boundaries. Peterborough UA has transferred its own stock to the RSL sector.

[2] 'General needs' self-contained RSL stock only

[3] RSL vacancies of more than six months are based on a proxy measure - "RSL vacancies not available for rent"

Sources:

All tenures - CTB1 council tax form (completed by local authorities); local authority tenure - Business Planning Statistical Appendix (completed by local authorities); RSL tenure - Regulatory and Statistical Return (completed by RSLs)

Energy: Housing

John Woodcock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will bring forward proposals for mandatory energy efficiency standards for homes in the private rented sector; and if he will make a statement. [18090]

Andrew Stunell: Following the uprating of energy efficiency requirements in the building regulations on 1 October, we currently have no plans to implement additional regulatory measures in the private rented sector. We are however committed to improving the energy efficiency of existing housing, and we will continue to look at ways of promoting energy efficiency in the private rented sector including through the Green Deal.

Enforced Sale Procedure Order

Mr Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many enforced sale orders each local authority has obtained since such orders were introduced; and which local authorities have enforced sales under such orders. [17620]

Andrew Stunell: Information on enforced sales is not collected.

Homes and Communities Agency: North East

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will ensure that the *(a)* assets and *(b)* income from assets currently held by the Homes and Communities Agency in the North East will remain in the North East and continue to be used for the purposes of housing and related projects. [17521]

Andrew Stunell: We are reviewing the future of regeneration and housing policies as part of the spending review and the forthcoming White Paper on sub-national economic growth. There are currently no plans to move assets and income held by the Homes and Communities Agency outside of the Agency.

Housing: Construction

Mr Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to announce his Department's plans for incentives for developers of new houses. [17532]

Grant Shapps: We are committed to increasing housing supply and seeing more of the homes that people want, in the places that people want them, to meet Britain's housing need.

The coalition agreement makes a clear commitment to replace centrally imposed targets with powerful fiscal incentives for local authorities so that people see the benefits of housing growth.

We have acted quickly to scrap and replace the previous government's ineffective failed top-down target system.

In a letter to council leaders on 9 August I set out my intention to introduce the cornerstone of this new system, the New Homes Bonus. This will shift power back into the hands of individuals, communities and councils and give local communities a direct and substantial share in growth rather than just absorbing the costs. A copy of this letter was sent to all MPs and placed in the Library of the House.

We will introduce the scheme early in the spending review following a consultation on the specific scheme design.

We are also committed to reducing the burden of unnecessary regulation on homebuilders. This will reduce the costs of development and incentivise investment in new housing.

Mr Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has for sustainable house building in the period from 2010 to 2015. [17533]

Andrew Stunell: Our programme for government includes a number of commitments to encouraging sustainable house building. We are seeking to increase levels of sustainable house building by introducing the New Homes Bonus, a powerful fiscal incentive for local authorities to deliver new homes.

We are committed also to improving the energy efficiency of new homes. My right hon. Friend, the Minister for Housing and Local Government, announced in July our intention to ensure that all new homes would be zero carbon from 2016. As a first step, new requirements in building regulations came into to effect on 1 October. We are planning to publish a revised version of the Code for Sustainable Homes shortly.

The programme for government also confirmed our intention to create a presumption in favour of sustainable development in the planning system. We will announce further details later this year.

Mr Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he plans to take to reduce levels of regulation applying to new housing developments. [18102]

Andrew Stunell: I initiated a review of the building regulations over the summer, to consider options for changes to the building regulations and building control system, including the potential to deregulate. Having sought views from a wide range of interested parties, and taking account of the responses to the "Your Freedom" and my Department's "Cutting Red Tape" websites, my officials are now analysing the responses and I am aiming to make a statement on this around the end of the year.

More widely, my colleague, the Minister for Housing, has set out his commitment to simplifying the regulations for new build housing. My Department will be initiating discussions with interested parties shortly about how to simplify the other standards (beyond building regulations) in the light of the development of the new planning regime. In the meantime we have:

Abolished national housing density targets;

Revoked Regional Strategies for local housing numbers;

Adopted a government wide "one in, one out" approach to new regulatory burdens.

The coalition agreement says we will publish and present to Parliament a simple and consolidated national planning framework covering all forms of development. We will make an announcement on how we propose to take forward the national planning framework and the implications for specific areas of planning policy. This will include planning for housing policy.

Housing: East of England

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the average density of new housing in *(a)* Peterborough and *(b)* the East of England in each of the last 10 years. [17869]

Andrew Stunell: The density of new housing in Peterborough for 1994-97, 1998-2001, 2002-05 and 2006-09 is published in the Land Use Change Statistics Live Table P232, while the density of new housing in the east of England between 1999 and 2009 is published in the Land Use Change Statistics Live Table P231. Both of these tables can be accessed at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planningbuilding/planningstatistics/livetables/landusechange/

Note that the density of new housing at local authority level is only published as multi-year averages as it can be highly volatile at more frequent intervals.

The abolition of Whitehall density targets by the new Government means that the appropriate level of density of new housing is now a matter for local determination.

Housing: Empty Property

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the New Homes Bonus scheme will apply to empty homes brought back into use by local authorities. [16855]

Grant Shapps: We are committed to increasing housing supply and seeing more of the homes that people want, in the places that people want them, to meet Britain's housing need.

The coalition agreement makes a clear commitment to replace centrally imposed targets with powerful incentives for local authorities so that people see the real benefits of growth.

I will be considering the specific scheme design issues, including bringing empty properties back into use, shortly after the spending review.

Housing: Ex-servicemen

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of service personnel normally resident in *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* Northern Ireland and *(d)* each region of England have been granted housing by a local authority upon discharge from the armed forces in each of the last five years. [17804]

Andrew Stunell: This information is not collected centrally.

Information is collected from local authorities via the quarterly P1E form giving the number of households accepted as owed a main homelessness duty with reason for loss of last settled home being 'Household left HM forces'. These households will be offered social housing or placed in temporary accommodation until such housing is available or other arrangements are made. These figures do not provide a full or accurate picture of the number of armed forces service personnel granted housing by local authorities because households can enter social housing via other routes, and not all households accepted as homeless will enter social housing. Also, local authorities record only the main reason for loss of last settled home and so may underestimate the number of acceptances following discharge from the armed forces.

Number of households accepted as being homeless with reason for loss of last settled home 'Household left HM forces'

	Number
2005-06	268
2006-07	204
2007-08	218
2008-09	163
2009-10	123

Source:
Quarterly P1E returns

The Department does not hold statistics for the devolved Administrations.

Housing: Newcastle Upon Tyne

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information his Department holds on the sites for which Newcastle city council sought funding as part of its Single Home Improvement Panel application. [17984]

Andrew Stunell: My Department holds no information on any programme or funding stream called the Single Home Improvement Panel.

Housing: Peterborough

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has made a recent estimate of the *(a)* number and *(b)* monetary value of homes which could be built on undeveloped sites in Peterborough which are held in land banks by registered social landlords. [17850]

Andrew Stunell: The Department for Communities and Local Government has not made a recent estimate of the number or monetary value of homes which could be built on undeveloped land in Peterborough owned by registered social landlords.

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of homes in Peterborough were *(a)* owner-occupied, *(b)* privately rented and *(c)* socially rented in the latest period for which figures are available. [17862]

Andrew Stunell: The number of dwellings in Peterborough unitary authority (UA) area in 2009 is shown in the following table, split by tenure. Figures for the privately rented and owner-occupied tenures are not held centrally.

Peterborough UA	*Number of units*	*Percentage of total*
Local authority[1]		
Registered social landlord[2]	14,244	19
Other public sector	542	1
Private sector	60,427	80
Total	75,213	100

[1] Peterborough UA has transferred its own stock into the registered social landlord (RSL) sector.

[2] Includes 'general needs' stock, 'supported housing' and 'housing for older people', both self-contained and bed spaces

Sources:

1. Local authority and other public sector reported as at 1 April 2009 by local authorities through the Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix; includes non-permanent dwellings.
2. Registered social landlord figures as at 31 March 2009 collected in the Regulatory and Statistical Return.
3. Total stock estimates from 2001: census dwelling count as a baseline and subsequent changes to the dwelling stock from the Housing Flows Reconciliation form. Private stock is calculated by the residual.

Housing: Repossession Orders

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his policy is on forcing sale on unsecured debts of less than £25,000; and what assessment he has made of the likely effect this would have on bringing *(a)* empty and *(b)* visually-blighted residential properties back into use. [15655]

Andrew Stunell: The Ministry of Justice has responsibility for the legislation which would be affected by this coalition agreement proposal.

Officials in Communities and Local Government are working closely with the Ministry of Justice to ensure the right balance is achieved between protecting home-owners from losing their home as a result of modest unsecured debts, and maintaining the powers local authorities need to tackle dangerous or visually blighted properties, including empty homes.

Infrastructure: Planning Permission

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what process his Department plans to follow for applications for major infrastructure projects which have entered the planning process but which will not have been determined on the date of abolition of the Infrastructure Planning Commission. [17536]

Robert Neill: We intend to make provision in the localism Bill which will allow for applications which have been accepted by the Infrastructure Planning Commission, but not yet decided, to transfer seamlessly to the Secretary of State. Such applications will be taken forward by the new Major Infrastructure Planning Unit, which will be established within the Planning Inspectorate, without interruption to the process.

Local Enterprise Partnerships: Norfolk

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department issues to those wishing to prepare a bid to establish a local enterprise partnership; and what representations he has received from organisations in Norfolk on the processes for establishing such partnerships. [17896]

Robert Neill: The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills jointly wrote to local authorities and business leaders on 29 June inviting them to submit their initial proposals for local enterprise partnerships. The letter encouraged local areas to come forward with their own ideas for the formation of local enterprise partnerships but set out some expectations around the role, governance and size of such partnerships.

We have received a proposal for a local enterprise partnership entitled Norfolk Unlimited covering the area of Norfolk county council. We have also received a proposal for an East Anglia local enterprise partnership covering Cambridgeshire, Suffolk, Norfolk and parts of Essex. We are currently considering these proposals and any representations relating to them and hope to provide formal feedback soon.

Local Government: Procurement

Andrew Bridgen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he is taking to make the tendering process of local government building contracts more accessible to small and medium-sized businesses. [17182]

Robert Neill: It is for local authorities themselves to determine the best way to commission and procure building contracts. However, best practice guidance is available from a number of sources. For example, OGC and BIS recently published guidance to procurement staff and organisations on flagging tendering opportunities suitable for SMEs or consortiums of SMEs in 'Small supplier big opportunity—Flagging your contracts to SMEs':

http://www.ogc.gov.uk/documents/Contract_Flagging.pdf

As part of the Government's commitment to increasing transparency and openness, all councils have been called up to publish invitations to tender and final contracts on projects over £500 by the start of 2011.

The Local Government Association (LGA), through its 'Place Based Productivity' programme, is looking at a range of productivity topics, including procurement. This sector-led programme will look identify best practice and identify new and innovative ways to support local government and its partners in finding greater efficiencies. For further details:

http://local.gov.uk/lgv2/core/page.do?pageId=579930

Local Government: Publicity

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what timetable has been set for the revision of the code of recommended practice on local authority publicity. [17473]

Robert Neill: The code of publicity is referred to in the structural reform plan. On 29 September we launched a consultation on proposals for a revised code of recommended practice, inviting responses by 10 November. Subject to that consultation, we intend by the end of November to lay before Parliament a revised code which will come into force once it is approved by both Houses of Parliament.

Mobile Homes: Regulation

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the operation of the Residential Regulatory Tribunal Service in administering regulations on the sale and purchase of mobile homes; and if he will make a statement. [18121]

Andrew Stunell: Residential property tribunals do not at present determine applications in relation to the sale and purchase of mobile homes. It is proposed that the jurisdiction of the county courts in doing so will transfer to the tribunals in the spring of next year. An assessment of the effectiveness of that operation will be carried out in due course.

Planning: Travellers

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will withdraw planning circular 01/2006. [17810]

Andrew Stunell: The Government intend to revoke Planning Circular 01/06 (ODPM) 'Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Sites' subject to the necessary impact assessments and following a public consultation. The circular will be replaced with a short policy statement and light-touch guidance.

Planning: Travellers

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he expects to revoke the current planning circulars relating to Travellers; and if he will make a statement. [18272]

Andrew Stunell: The Government intend to revoke Planning Circular 01/06 (ODPM) 'Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Sites' and 'Planning Circular 04/07 Planning for Travelling Showpeople' subject to the necessary impact assessments and following a public consultation. The circulars will be replaced with a short policy statement and light-touch guidance.

I also refer my hon. Friend to my Department's press release of 29 August 2010, a copy of which has been deposited in the Library of the House.

Registered Social Landlords: East of England

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent estimate has been made of the number of registered social landlords who own undeveloped land in *(a)* Peterborough and *(b)* the East of England. [17851]

Andrew Stunell: There has been no recent estimate of the number of registered social landlords who own undeveloped land in either Peterborough or the East of England.

Thurrock Borough Council: Accountancy

Jackie Doyle-Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department is taking to raise standards of financial management at Thurrock borough council; and if he will make a statement. [17529]

Robert Neill: Responsibility for raising financial standards at Thurrock rests with the local authority and its electorate, who will be assisted by the steps that the Government are taking to increase the transparency of local authorities' financial transactions. The changes we are making to the Audit Commission will safeguard the independence of local audit and further enhance democratic accountability by giving residents a role in the appointment of the auditor.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Death: Children

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what methods his Department uses to assess the effectiveness of its programmes in reducing the under-5 mortality rate. [18109]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) assesses the effectiveness of its work to reduce the under-5 mortality rate using information embedded in DFID's corporate performance systems at the level of our projects and programmes. These draw on national data and statistics and evidence collected by DFID's partners, including the GAVI Alliance and the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria. We also draw on data from the United Nations Statistics Division's MDG database, to assess progress against Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 4, to reduce the child mortality rate at the national and global levels.

DFID is currently reviewing its bilateral and multilateral aid to ensure our programmes are effective, represent value for money for the UK taxpayer and accelerate progress towards the MDGs. Future funding allocation will be based on the findings of these reviews and the outcome of the comprehensive spending review.

The coalition Government places a strong focus on results in all our aid programmes. We will be embedding evaluation in every programme and creating an independent aid watchdog, the Independent Commission for Aid Impact, to overseas the effectiveness of UK aid.

Pakistan: Floods

Paul Uppal: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development to which organisations his Department has granted aid funding to assist recovery following the recent floods in Pakistan. [17996]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: I refer my hon. Friend to my answer to a written parliamentary question on 11 October 2010, *Official Report* column 125W, which sets out details of our support and funding.

Further details of organisations funded by the Department for International Development (DFID) in response to the Pakistan floods are available on the Floods Monitor on DFID's website at:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/pakistanfloodsmonitor2010

Zimbabwe: Civil Servants

Anne Marie Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent representations he has received on the payment of pensions to officials of the Government who worked in Zimbabwe prior to independence. [17718]

Mr Duncan: There have been no representations to the Secretary of State for International Development on behalf of former employees of the Government of Southern Rhodesia.

There have been representations to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office by the Overseas Service Pensioners Association (OSPA).

EDUCATION

Bercow Review

Paul Maynard: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has to arrange and support an independent 18-month review of progress on implementing the recommendations of the Bercow review of services for children and young people with speech, language and communication needs; and if he will make a statement. [15165]

Sarah Teather: The Department for Education, with the Communication Council, is monitoring progress on implementing the recommendations from the Bercow review. Progress is being made and we will be taking this into account, alongside recent reviews on special educational needs and disabilities, including the Rose review, the Lamb inquiry, the Salt review, and the Ofsted report published on 14 September as we develop a Green Paper on special educational needs and disabilities for the autumn.

I am keen that, in taking forward work on the Green Paper, we seek a wide range of views. That is why I was pleased to hold a roundtable discussion with members of the Communications Trust and others with an interest in children with speech, language and communication needs (SLCN). I am also pleased to confirm that a Call for Views for the Green Paper was launched on 10 September 2010.

Children: Carers

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps his Department is taking to *(a)* reduce the number of children and young people acting as carers and *(b)* assist children and young people who (i) have been and (ii) are acting as carers. [12387]

Tim Loughton: Helping to care for a family member is something that many young people are happy and proud to do. These young people do play an absolutely vital role both for their families and society as a whole and they deserve our recognition and support. The Department for Education with the Department of Health is absolutely committed to supporting local services including many voluntary organisations which have been set up to support these young people.

However in some cases these young people need protection from excessive or inappropriate caring that puts their education and/or health at risk. I attended the Young Carers Festival this summer as I have done for a number of years and have heard directly about their concerns. They told me that services supporting their parents or other family members all too often do not consider their views or identify and respond to their support needs, even though these might be critical to the care they are providing.

On 28 July the Government initiated a call for evidence with a view to refreshing the Carers Strategy—the consultation closed on 20 September. The responses are currently being considered and will help establish the key priorities that will be the focus of a refreshed Carers Strategy to be published later this year.

The strategy will build on the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) and the Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS) Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) 'working together to better support young carers' which encourages services such as schools, substance misuse and mental health services and the voluntary sector to identify and respond to young carers support needs as well as those of their parent/family. The MoU is unequivocal in saying that any package of support for those requiring care should not rely on a young person taking on inappropriate of excessive levels of care. I have urged all local authorities to sign up to the MoU.

The Princess Royal Trust for Carers, supported by Government, is currently managing a £1 million Innovation Fund on behalf of the National Young Carers Coalition. This has led to 20 voluntary sector young carer projects being funded until March 2011 to extend the support they provide to young carers to include the whole family. The trust is looking at ways to showcase the learning to other voluntary sector young carer projects.

Young carers have also said that they want their schools and teaching staff to be more responsive to their needs. In response to this the Princess Royal Trust for Carers and the Children's Society has produced a schools pack to help schools develop their systems and policies and increasing numbers of schools have included young carers as a key theme within their own 'Healthy Schools' programmes.

Later in the year the Department plans to publish a report on local projects that have helped to ensure that young people do not have to take on harmful caring roles.

The Children's Society, supported by DFE, recently completed a series of five training events for practitioners in adult mental health and substance misuse services to help them better identify, assess, support or refer young carers to the appropriate help.

Children's Play: Essex

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will provide funds under the Playmaker Scheme for projects at *(a)* Castle Park and *(b)* High Woods country park in Colchester. [14819]

Sarah Teather: Government are currently having to make difficult choices in order to tackle the budget deficit. The coalition inherited unrealistic spending commitments for 2010-11, where funding was reliant on under-spends or additional funding being taken from reserves.

Play, while important for children and families, has to make its contribution. We are currently looking at how we can make savings to the play capital budget in the most equitable way possible, while taking account of contractual commitments that may be in place locally and allowing projects to progress where affordable.

Once local authorities are notified of revised playbuilder allocations it will continue to be for them to make their own decisions about where playbuilder investment should be made locally, based on identified need and following consultation with children and young people, families and wider communities.

Departmental Drinking Water

Nick de Bois: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department spent on bottled water in 2008. [17544]

Tim Loughton: The Department does not record information to such a level of detail to enable it to identify expenditure on bottled water.

Departmental Manpower

Mrs Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many people are employed at his Department's site in Darlington. [11180]

Tim Loughton: As of 31 August 2010, there were 411 (381.7 full-time equivalent) employees at the Department's Darlington site.

Departmental Training

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his *(a)* Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies spent on training for its employees in each year since 1997. [7650]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education was established on 12 May 2010. The Department estimates the total spend on learning and development (since it was established) and for its predecessors, the Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Department for Education and Skills, over the last three financial years to be as follows:

Financial year	*£ million*
2007-08	2.68
2008-09	2.84
2009-10	1.58

The Department does not hold the information centrally for spending on training in the years previous to this, and could obtain it only at disproportionate cost.

Information on the Department's non-departmental public bodies training costs is not available as they manage their own budgets in this regard. Because the Department does not hold this information centrally, it could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Family and Parenting Institute: Finance

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what level of funding is allocated to the Family and Parenting Institute in the current financial year; and if he will make a statement. [15401]

Sarah Teather *[holding answer 15 September 2010]:* The funding allocated by the Department for Education to the Family and Parenting Institute for 2010-11 is as follows:

	£
Children, Young People and Families (CYPF) grant	1,210,000
Parenting Fund	7,500,000
Early Home Learning Environment project	132,507
Total	8,842,507

The strategic grant from the Children, Young People and Families grant programme enables FPI to make a difference for parents and families by influencing local and national decision makers to improve outcomes for families through research; sharing knowledge; and supporting innovation by designing, testing and presenting the outcomes accessibly.

FPI has a £7.5 million contract to manage the Parenting Fund. Through this £6 million is distributed to 90 local voluntary and charitable organisations in 23 disadvantaged areas to provide parenting and family support services. The remainder covers the cost of managing the Fund and helping the sustainability of these local projects after Government funding ends in March 2011.

The Early Home Learning Environment research project is examining the influence that early years providers can have on the quality of children's home environment. This project ends in March 2011.

Health Education: Sex

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he is taking to improve sex education in England to reduce the number of *(a)* unwanted pregnancies and *(b)* cases of sexually transmitted infections among teenagers. [15654]

Sarah Teather: We believe that it is vital that all children receive high-quality sex and relationships education (SRE), to ensure that they have the knowledge and skills they need to make the right decisions about relationships and sexual health later in life. We are currently considering how best to facilitate that, within the context of a slimmed down national curriculum. We will be announcing our proposals for the curriculum as a whole later in the autumn.

History: A-level

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how many and what proportion of pupils were entered for history A-level in each local authority in the most recent year for which figures are available; [15944]

(2) how many and what proportion of pupils entered for history A-level obtained a grade C or above in each local authority in the most recent year for which figures are available. [15945]

Mr Gibb: The information requested is shown in the following table:

History A level entries and achievements by local authority, 2009

Local authority	*Number of pupils who were entered for History A level in 2009*	*Percentage of pupils who were entered for History A level in 2009*	*Number of pupils who achieved a grade C or above in History A level*	*Percentage of pupils entered for History A level who achieved a grade C or above*
North East	1,502	15.6	1,099	73.2
Darlington	122	13.3	86	70.5
Durham	235	15.4	189	80.4

History A level entries and achievements by local authority, 2009

Local authority	*Number of pupils who were entered for History A level in 2009*	*Percentage of pupils who were entered for History A level in 2009*	*Number of pupils who achieved a grade C or above in History A level*	*Percentage of pupils entered for History A level who achieved a grade C or above*
Gateshead	122	18.1	94	77.0
Hartlepool	66	14.9	50	75.8
Middlesbrough	50	10.1	31	62.0
Newcastle upon Tyne	171	12.2	123	71.9
North Tyneside	123	15.4	104	84.6
Northumberland	217	15.1	163	75.1
Redcar and Cleveland	75	11.9	50	66.7
South Tyneside	71	17.1	43	60.6
Stockton-on-Tees	114	13.8	74	64.9
Sunderland	136	18.4	92	67.6
North West	4,118	13.7	3,191	77.5
Blackburn with Darwen	85	11.0	63	74.1
Blackpool	91	11.5	71	78.0
Bolton	98	9.6	69	70.4
Bury	132	9.5	104	78.8
Cheshire East	276	16.2	208	75.4
Cheshire West and Chester	239	9.8	188	78.7
Cumbria	403	17.8	305	75.7
Halton	37	11.3	21	56.8
Knowsley	8	4.3	5	62.5
Lancashire	587	13.5	492	83.8
Liverpool	341	17.1	246	72.1
Manchester	182	9.3	146	80.2
Oldham	116	8.9	98	84.5
Rochdale	37	13.6	22	59.5
Salford	92	12.4	73	79.3
Sefton	219	13.1	175	79.9
St. Helens	67	6.6	47	70.1
Stockport	133	8.3	109	82.0
Tameside	74	9.4	55	74.3
Trafford	251	22.8	204	81.3
Warrington	147	14.7	108	73.5
Wigan	225	13.4	187	83.1
Wirral	278	14.4	195	70.1
Yorkshire and the Humber	3,091	15.0	2,251	72.8
Barnsley	74	17.4	48	64.9
Bradford	242	13.3	170	70.2
Calderdale	140	15.6	104	74.3
Doncaster	102	9.8	68	66.7
East Riding of Yorkshire	287	22.5	202	70.4
Kingston Upon Hull, City of	90	10.2	69	76.7
Kirklees	290	14.4	229	79.0
Leeds	460	15.5	338	73.5
North East Lincolnshire	98	12.4	45	45.9
North Lincolnshire	117	12.4	81	69.2
North Yorkshire	473	14.7	375	79.3
Rotherham	143	11.0	97	67.8
Sheffield	267	13.8	198	74.2
Wakefield	159	11.7	112	70.4
York	149	15.5	115	77.2
East Midlands	2,910	15.9	2,111	72.5
Derby	136	15.3	96	70.6
Derbyshire	499	18.4	373	74.7
Leicester	90	5.6	70	77.8
Leicestershire	309	8.9	226	73.1
Lincolnshire	683	21.3	526	77.0
Northamptonshire	506	16.5	349	69.0

History A level entries and achievements by local authority, 2009

Local authority	*Number of pupils who were entered for History A level in 2009*	*Percentage of pupils who were entered for History A level in 2009*	*Number of pupils who achieved a grade C or above in History A level*	*Percentage of pupils entered for History A level who achieved a grade C or above*
Nottingham	197	12.2	152	77.2
Nottinghamshire	490	16.4	319	65.1
West Midlands	3,755	16.3	2,725	72.6
Birmingham	671	14.3	499	74.4
Coventry	182	14.3	117	64.3
Dudley	235	13.6	186	79.1
Herefordshire	164	16.1	141	86.0
Sandwell	74	14.1	36	48.6
Shropshire	207	14.4	171	82.6
Solihull	228	16.5	171	75.0
Staffordshire	573	16.3	382	66.7
Stoke-on-Trent	121	15.4	89	73.6
Telford and Wrekin	133	16.9	122	91.7
Walsall	218	19.2	142	65.1
Warwickshire	474	17.4	362	76.4
Wolverhampton	101	10.8	54	53.5
Worcestershire	374	15.0	253	67.6
East of England	4,665	18.6	3,602	77.2
Bedford	152	17.5	117	77.0
Bedfordshire, Central	190	16.3	133	70.0
Cambridgeshire	596	21.5	499	83.7
Essex	1,047	16.6	803	76.7
Hertfordshire	1,165	17.7	918	78.8
Luton	84	10.4	52	61.9
Norfolk	523	16.6	384	73.4
Peterborough	136	15.6	100	73.5
Southend-on-Sea	187	19.3	160	85.6
Suffolk	518	19.0	396	76.4
Thurrock	67	12.0	40	59.7
London	5,197	16.3	4,082	78.5
Inner London	1,314	16.0	1,031	78.5
Camden	233	22.6	193	82.8
Hackney	34	9.3	23	67.6
Hammersmith and Fulham	120	15.8	100	83.3
Haringey	104	16.6	80	76.9
Islington	62	10.3	37	59.7
Kensington and Chelsea	74	11.7	56	75.7
Lambeth	46	14.2	38	82.6
Lewisham	158	14.4	122	77.2
Newham	48	6.5	37	77.1
Southwark	52	15.9	34	65.4
Tower Hamlets	55	7.3	36	65.5
Wandsworth	176	14.9	153	86.9
Westminster	152	14.5	122	80.3
Outer London	3,883	16.5	3,051	78.6
Barking and Dagenham	111	17.2	76	68.5
Barnet	424	15.7	368	86.8
Bexley	214	17.1	169	79.0
Brent	174	14.5	134	77.0
Bromley	378	17.0	283	74.9
Croydon	172	14.0	117	68.0
Ealing	127	14.0	116	91.3
Enfield	264	17.6	208	78.8
Greenwich	79	11.7	58	73.4
Harrow	190	14.6	156	82.1
Havering	238	16.3	205	86.1
Hillingdon	173	12.7	119	68.8
Hounslow	220	17.1	173	78.6

History A level entries and achievements by local authority, 2009

Local authority	*Number of pupils who were entered for History A level in 2009*	*Percentage of pupils who were entered for History A level in 2009*	*Number of pupils who achieved a grade C or above in History A level*	*Percentage of pupils entered for History A level who achieved a grade C or above*
Kingston upon Thames	196	15.6	145	74.0
Merton	44	11.8	31	70.5
Redbridge	297	13.7	240	80.8
Richmond upon Thames	179	15.7	136	76.0
Sutton	252	15.8	223	88.5
Waltham Forest	151	11.1	94	62.3
South East	6,644	16.9	5,227	78.7
Bracknell Forest	66	18.1	47	71.2
Brighton and Hove	282	18.0	235	83.3
Buckinghamshire	559	17.3	495	88.6
East Sussex	303	15.6	226	74.6
Hampshire	1,199	14.2	943	78.6
Isle of Wight	114	22.4	80	70.2
Kent	1 202	17.5	932	77.5
Medway	223	16.8	142	63.7
Milton Keynes	148	14.8	111	75.0
Oxfordshire	512	16.3	417	81.4
Portsmouth	18	7.1	12	66.7
Reading	108	18.6	87	80.6
Slough	76	9.8	69	90.8
Southampton	79	11.2	61	77.2
Surrey	901	14.9	702	77.9
West Berkshire	170	17.5	154	90.6
West Sussex	455	12.8	334	73.4
Windsor and Maidenhead	105	15.5	82	78.1
Wokingham	124	15.4	98	79.0
South West	3,538	16.8	2,707	76.5
Bath and North East Somerset	173	21.1	146	84.4
Bournemouth	79	16.1	72	91.1
Bristol, City of	166	10.4	124	74.7
Cornwall	269	12.9	183	68.0
Devon	393	13.5	293	74.6
Dorset	304	15.9	236	77.6
Gloucestershire	579	17.1	479	82.7
North Somerset	141	16.4	106	75.2
Plymouth	216	20.7	165	76.4
Poole	131	14.9	99	75.6
Somerset	366	15.7	266	72.7
South Gloucestershire	161	15.0	98	60.9
Swindon	100	11.2	63	63.0
Torbay	114	15.9	96	84.2
Wiltshire	346	18.7	281	81.2
England	35,420	15.0	26,995	76.2

Note:
The figures provided cover pupils aged 16-18 in maintained schools and FE Colleges.
Source:
Achievement and Attainment Tables.

Schools: Counselling

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will encourage secondary schools to appoint counsellors for pupils recommended by the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy. [12533]

Sarah Teather: When health and local authority commissioners are planning services to meet the mental health needs of children and young people locally they will want to consider the right way to engage with schools so as to get the best possible services to children and families. Schools are also able to use their own budgets to provide services to meet the needs of pupils, including services to support pupils' emotional well-being and mental health.

The national Targeted Mental Health in Schools (TaMHS) programme was developed to test the effectiveness of evidence-based mental health support in schools for those children, young people and their families who need it. Schools delivering TaMHS commission a range of services procured from voluntary and charitable (as well as statutory) organisations to meet the particular needs of their pupils, including counselling support for children struggling to cope following family breakdown or bereavement. The learning from TaMHS on effective commissioning of emotional well-being and mental health support and joint working with CAMHS—child and adolescent mental health services—is being shared across schools this year.

While programmes such as TaMHS have been testing what works in developing school-based mental health support, any decision about whether to commission these services remains at the school's discretion.

TREASURY

Corporation Tax: Northern Ireland

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much revenue was collected in corporation tax from companies trading in Northern Ireland in the latest year for which figures are available. [18040]

Mr Gauke: An indicative estimate of the amount of corporation tax collected from companies trading in Northern Ireland will be published by HM Treasury as part of a forthcoming consultation document on rebalancing the Northern Ireland economy.

Crown Currency Exchange

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with the Financial Services Authority on the regulation of Crown Currency Exchange; whether compensation will be available to people affected by the entry into administration of Crown Currency Exchange; and if he will make a statement. [18259]

Mr Hoban: The Financial Services Authority (FSA) does not regulate retail foreign currency exchange services such as Crown Currency Exchange.

Payments made to Crown Currency Exchange were not therefore protected by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme.

The Government will look at this case to see what lessons can be learned for the future.

Departmental Manpower

Kate Green: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has for the future number of staff of his Department engaged in reducing tax avoidance and evasion; and if he will make a statement. [16633]

Mr Gauke: HMRC's future staffing levels will be dependent on the implementation of the Department's spending review settlement, which will be announced on 20 October.

The Chief Secretary's announcement that the Government will invest £900 million in HM Revenue and Customs to tackle avoidance, evasion and fraud demonstrates the Government's commitment to deliver a spending review focused on both fairness and deficit reduction.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Spellar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to reply to the letter of 1 September from the right hon. Member for Warley regarding Sandwell Homes. [17518]

Danny Alexander: I have replied to the right hon. member.

PAYE

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many incorrect PAYE codes have been issued by HM Revenue and Customs to taxpayers in the last 12 months; and what estimate he has made of the amount of tax *(a)* overcharged and *(b)* undercharged as a result of tax code errors in the last 12 months. [13336]

Mr Gauke: The exact percentage of incorrect coding notices issued is not known. In any year a small percentage of codes are always incorrect as they do not reflect changes in an individual's circumstances. That is why HMRC send out coding notices well in advance of the start of the new tax year so that customers can review them and report any changes to HMRC.

The overwhelming majority of PAYE cases (more than 40 million) are correct, so most people have paid the right amount of tax. HMRC estimates that 4.3 million taxpayers will receive repayments for the years 2008-09 and 2009-10, while an estimated 1.4 million will be sent calculations advising that they have underpaid. HMRC estimates the total underpayments for tax years 2008-09 and 2009-10 at £2 billion while the overpayments are worth about £1.8 billion.

Lorely Burt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many HM Revenue and Customs' Pay As You Earn customer reviews from tax years *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2004-05, *(c)* 2003-04, *(d)* 2002-03 and *(e)* 2001-02 are outstanding; [15372]

(2) with reference to the answer of 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 388W, on Pay As You Earn, how many of HM Revenue and Customs' outstanding Pay As You Earn customer reviews (open cases) at the end of March 2007 related to the tax year *(a)* 2006-07, *(b)* 2005-06, *(c)* 2004-05, *(d)* 2003-04 and *(e)* 2002-03; [15373]

(3) with reference to paragraph 6.21 of HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) 2008-09 Accounts, how many of HMRCs' outstanding Pay As You Earn customer reviews (open cases) at the end of March 2008 related to the tax year *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2006-07, *(c)* 2005-06, *(d)* 2004-05 and *(e)* 2003-04; [15374]

(4) with reference to paragraph 6.28 of HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC) 2008-09 Accounts, how many of HMRCs' outstanding Pay As You Earn customer reviews (open cases) at the end of March 2009 related to the tax year *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2007-08, *(c)* 2006-07, *(d)* 2005-06 and *(e)* 2004-05. [15375]

Mr Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many outstanding PAYE cases there are in respect of each tax year since 2000-01; and how much remains *(a)* underpaid and *(b)* overpaid in respect of such cases in each such year; [15811]

(2) whether HM Revenue and Customs is *(a)* proceeding against and *(b)* intending to proceed against taxpayers for underpayments of PAYE for each tax year from 2000-01 to 2007-08; [15812]

(3) how many PAYE taxpayers have *(a)* underpaid and *(b)* overpaid tax in each tax year since 2000-01. [15814]

Mr Gauke: PAYE 'open cases' arose under the previous PAYE computer system when HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) was unable to match the pay and tax details submitted by their employer on form P14 to an individual's tax record or a match was made but the pay and tax did not reconcile and further work was needed to establish the correct tax position. The term 'open case' refers to tax years 2007-08 and earlier.

This was and still is a normal part of the PAYE process although the process has been largely automated since the introduction of the National Insurance and PAYE Service (NPS) in 2009.

The following table details the approximate number of PAYE 'open cases' broken down by tax year as at the end of March 2007, March 2008, March 2009 along with the number currently outstanding.

Open cases

Million

Tax year	*As at March 2007*	*As at March 2008*	*As at March 2009*	*As at 2010*
2007-08		[1]	9.52	7.92
2006-07	[1]	8.93	6.01	5.37
2005-06	8.45	4.29	3.17	2.42
2004-05	3.90	2.70	2.15	1.66
2003-04	0.81	0.52		
2002-03	0.21			

[1] The number of 'open cases' can only be determined after the end of the tax year

Earlier analysis suggested that around half the cases currently open were likely to lead to either an under or overpayment of tax and that in aggregate these might lead to repayments and recoveries of the order of £3.0 billion and £1.4 billion respectively. However the amount of tax under or overpaid cannot be established until each 'open case' has been worked.

HMRC is setting in place a programme to complete the clearance of open cases, with a view for their clearance by the end of 2012.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what procedures are in place for individuals to appeal against assessments made by HM Revenue and Customs on liability for the underpayment of PAYE tax as a result of recent miscalculations of liability. [15459]

Mr Gauke: Pay As You Earn (PAYE) calculations (P800s) issued to individuals are based on information held by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC). P800s set out HMRC's information about income received and tax paid for the relevant period, together with a calculation of any further tax or repayment due. They are not assessments and do not create a legal debt: they tell customers what HMRC thinks is the correct tax position. Individuals who think the calculation is incorrect in any way should contact HMRC in the first instance. The notes which accompany the P800 explain how to get in touch with HMRC.

If they are not able to reach agreement and think HMRC's calculations are wrong, customers have a right to appeal against any subsequent assessment or other legal action taken by HMRC. They also have a statutory right to ask for an internal review of that decision. Internal review offers customers the opportunity to have disputed tax decisions considered by a person who was not involved in the original decision, with a view to resolving the case without the need to go to a tribunal. Customers who have a review retain their right to take their appeal to an independent tribunal if they wish.

The notes accompanying the P800 also explain what people should do in cases where they do not challenge the figures or the legal basis of HMRC's calculation, but think that HMRC should not collect the tax from them. If customers think they should not pay they should make a claim to HMRC in the first instance. If they remain unsatisfied they have the option of making a complaint about the service they have received from HMRC. If they are not satisfied with HMRC's response to the complaint they can take their case to the independent Adjudicator's Office or the Parliamentary Ombudsman.

Kate Green: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether an assessment has been made of the likely effects of the miscalculation of tax liabilities under the PAYE system on recipients of means-tested in-work social security benefits. [15583]

Mr Gauke: It is a normal part of the PAYE cycle that changes in circumstances that cannot be reflected in in-year tax deductions need to be reconciled annually. This is not a miscalculation but is a feature of the way the current PAYE system is designed. PAYE works well for the majority of people but because the processes remain fundamentally unchanged since they were introduced in 1944 there are limitations. The coalition Government are looking at how to reform PAYE further and make it more efficient.

For information on the impact on recipients of social security benefits if income after tax is changed, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Minister of State for Pensions on 11 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 244-245W to the right hon. Member for East Ham (Stephen Timms).

Mr Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many PAYE taxpayers owed less than £300 and had their debts written off by HM Revenue and Customs in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10; and what the total sum so owed was in each such year. [15813]

Mr Gauke: HMRC estimates the cost of increasing the PAYE tolerance to £300 for 2008-09 and 2009-10 tax years is £160 million, affecting 900,000 taxpayers. HMRC is unable to provide a breakdown of the total sum owed for each year.

Taxation

Mr Meacher: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the amounts forgone by the Exchequer in tax reliefs or allowances in the latest period for which figures are available; in respect of which tax reliefs or allowances the largest sums were forgone; what the sums were in each case;

and how much of the sums forgone was attributable to reliefs or allowances granted to *(a)* ordinary rate taxpayers, *(b)* higher rate taxpayers and *(c)* the top (i) 10 per cent., (ii) five per cent., (iii) one per cent. and (iv) 0.1 per cent. of tax payers. [18029]

Mr Gauke: Estimates for principal tax expenditure and structural reliefs are contained in Table 1.5 "Estimated costs of the principal tax expenditure and structural reliefs", which can be found on the HM Revenue and Customs website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax_expenditures/table1-5.pdf

Estimates of the relief value of Personal Allowance and Age-related Personal Allowances for 2009-10 is shown in the following table.

£ million

	Personal allowance	*Age-related personal allowance*
Taxpayer group		
(a) Basic Rate	35,900	2,180
(b) Higher Rate	7,950	0
Total income group		
(i) Top 10%	7,790	0
(ii) Top 5%	3,900	0
(iii) Top 1%	779	0
(iv) Top 0.1%	78	0

Estimates are based upon the 2007-08 Survey of Personal Incomes and are uprated to 2009-10 using June 2010 Budget economic assumptions.

Detailed breakdowns by taxpayer status or income for other principal tax expenditure and structural reliefs are not available.

VAT

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the effect on church repairs of the recovery of VAT on maintenance costs; and if he will make a statement. [17655]

Mr Gauke: VAT is chargeable on all works of repair or maintenance to churches, as with other buildings. Under normal VAT rules, such tax is not recoverable unless it is a business expense. No assessment has therefore been made of the effect of VAT recovery on church repairs.

INDEPENDENT PARLIAMENTARY STANDARDS AUTHORITY COMMITTEE

Claims: Errors

Bob Russell: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, how many errors by staff of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority in processing claims have been recorded since its inception. [15724]

Mr Charles Walker: For clarity, future answers will indicate where an issue is the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority and not of the Speaker's Committee.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Andrew McDonald to Bob Russell:

As Interim Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many errors have been recorded since IPSA began operations. (15724)

MPs whose claims for reimbursement are not paid by IPSA are able to request a review on the grounds that the rules have been applied incorrectly, or that IPSA has made an administrative error. Since 7 May 2010, IPSA has concluded that the decision not to pay was incorrectly determined in 19 instances.

Members: Allowances

Mr Liddell-Grainger: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, how much was owed to hon. and right hon. Members in unpaid expense claims by the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority *(a)* on the most recent date for which figures are available and *(b)* in each month since 6 May 2010. [14631]

Mr Charles Walker: For clarity, future answers will indicate where an issue is the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority and not of the Speaker's Committee.

The information requested falls with the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Andrew McDonald:

As Interim Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how much was owed in unpaid expense claims. (14631)

In this context, the question 'how much was owed...' can be interpreted as both expense claims submitted but not yet paid by the end of the month and expense claims approved for payment but not yet paid by the end of the month. Figures for both interpretations are provided in the following tables.

Table 1: Value of expense claims submitted but not yet paid by the end of each month.

Claims submitted	*Value (£)*
End June	128,219.02
End July	60,332.85
End August	235,325.87
End September	201,965.68

Table 2: Value of expense claims approved but not yet paid by the end of each month.

Claims approved	*Value (£)*
End June	38,622.06
End July	45,107.11
End August	91,710.51
End September	68,279.50

Members: Correspondence

Mr Chope: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, when the Chairman of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority plans to reply to the letter to him of 13 July 2010 from the office of the hon. Member for Christchurch. [14924]

Mr Charles Walker: It has not been possible for IPSA to provide a response to this question by the named day. IPSA will respond as soon as possible.

For clarity, future answers will indicate where an issue is the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority and not of the Speaker's Committee.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Substantive answer from Andrew McDonald to Christopher Chope:

As Interim Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question on correspondence. (14924)

The Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority does not intend to comment publicly on individual correspondence with MPs. At present, IPSA aims to respond to all emails and letters within 5 working days.

Members: Telephone Services

Luciana Berger: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, what the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority's (IPSA) most recent estimate is of the average waiting time for hon. Members who call the IPSA enquiry line. [16029]

Mr Charles Walker: For clarity, future answers will indicate where an issue is the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority and not of the Speaker's Committee.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Andrew McDonald to Luciana Berger:

As Interim Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking the average waiting time for callers to the IPSA enquiry line. (16029)

During the month of September, the average call waiting time on the IPSA enquiry line was six minutes and fifty-seven seconds.

CABINET OFFICE

Cancer

Mr Baron: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the one year cancer survival rate was for each type of cancer in people aged *(a)* 49 years and under, *(b)* 50 to 59 years, *(c)* 60 to 69 years, *(d)* 70 to 79 years and *(e)* over 80 years in (i) each cancer network, (ii) each primary care trust and (iii) England in each of the last five years. [17162]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated October 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the one year cancer survival rate was for each type of cancer in people aged (a) 49 years and under, (b) 50 to 59 years, (c) 60 to 69 years, (d) 70 to 79 years and (e) over 80 years in (i) each cancer network, (ii) each primary care trust and (iii) England in each of the last five years. [017162]

ONS publish one-year cancer survival rates for adults (aged 15-99). Survival is calculated from the date of diagnosis.

The latest one-year survival figures available for (i) cancer networks in England, for six common cancers are for patients diagnosed in 1991-2006 and followed up to 2007. These are available on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=15387

The results are divided into three periods: 1991 - 1995, 1996 - 2000 and 2001 - 2006.

The latest one-year survival figures available for (i) primary care trusts in England, based on a cancer survival index for all cancers combined are for patients diagnosed during 1996-2006 and followed up to the end of 2007. These are available on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=15388

Figures are presented for each of the 11 years from 1996 - 2006, for all adults (persons aged 15-99 years), persons aged 55 - 64 years and persons aged 75 - 99 years.

The latest one-year survival figures available for (iii) England, for 21 common cancers are for patients diagnosed in 2003-2007 and followed up to the end of 2008. These are available on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk-14007

Comparable survival rates for England for each preceding five year period back to 1998-2001 and followed up to 2003 can also be downloaded from this link.

Charities: Surveys

Sir Alan Beith: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the most recent national survey of charities and social enterprises; when the last such survey was conducted; and if he will make a statement. [17748]

Mr Hurd: The National Survey of Charities and Social Enterprises is vital in providing detailed information on the state of the sector at a local level and provides communities, the sector and local and national government with the information needed to support evidence-based decision making in response to public spending reductions and drive forward real change in local areas.

The National Survey of Charities and Social Enterprises was first conducted in autumn 2008, and fieldwork is currently under way for the second wave of the survey, with results due in early 2011.

The total net cost of developing and conducting the survey in 2008 and 2010 is £1,465,876.63. The contract for this work was competitively tendered in the Official Journal of the European Union and awarded to the strongest bidder on the basis of the best value tender.

Childbirth

Mr Amess: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many *(a)* live births and *(b)* stillbirths there were in each region of England in each year since 2007. [17591]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated October 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many (a) live births and (b) stillbirths there were in each region of England in each year since 2007. (017591)

The table below shows the numbers of live births and stillbirths in each Government Office Region of England in 2007, 2008 and 2009.

Number of live births and stillbirths in each Government Office Region of England: 2007, 2008 and 2009

Area of usual residence	*Live births*			*Stillbirths*		
	2007	*2008*	*2009*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
North East	29,582	30,217	29,776	146	179	143
North West	85,947	88,167	87,549	476	450	450
Yorkshire and the Humber	64,191	66,353	66,358	376	371	371
East Midlands	52,482	54,192	53,746	234	255	304
West Midlands	70,098	71,726	71,042	379	403	413
East	69,311	71,738	71,335	308	304	349
London	125,505	127,651	129,245	781	730	701
South East	101,238	104,023	103,669	475	471	476
South West	57,003	58,742	58,338	239	264	280
England	655,357	672,809	671,058	3,414	3,427	3,487

The final 2009 data in the table above were published in September 2010 and are available at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_population/characteristics-of-births1.xls

- see Tables 5 and 6. The data for 2007 and 2008 can be found in FM1 Birth Statistics no. 36 and 37 - see tables 7.1 and 7.6:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=5768

Civil Servants: Awards

Harriett Baldwin: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether there is any cost to the public purse of holding the annual Civil Service awards. [16829]

Mr Maude: The annual Civil Service Awards were introduced in 2006. The Cabinet Office does not hold information on the costs of the awards as these are met by the private publishing company Dods and its associated sponsors. The Cabinet Office has never paid for venue hire, speakers, refreshments or others costs associated with these awards.

This year, the fifth anniversary of the awards, the ceremony will take place at Buckingham Palace. As in previous years, Dods and its associated sponsors will cover the costs of the ceremony. The awards ceremony will be followed by a reception given by Her Majesty the Queen and the costs for this, in common with other receptions given by Her Majesty for official occasions, will be met from the civil list.

Departmental Drinking Water

Nick de Bois: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much his Department has spent on bottled water in each year since 2008. [16879]

Mr Maude: This information is not separately identified and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Manpower

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many officials his Department has appointed on fixed-term contracts since 7 May 2010. [16785]

Mr Maude: Since 7 May to 11 October 2010, the Cabinet Office has made 26 fixed-term appointments.

Employment: Chester

Stephen Mosley: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what proportion of the working population of City of Chester constituency is employed by the *(a)* public and *(b)* private sector. [17355]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated October 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what proportion of the working population of City of Chester constituency is employed by the (a) public and (b) private sector. (17355)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles statistics for public sector employment from the Quarterly Public Sector Employment Survey (QPSES) and external sources, as this provides a more accurate classification between the public and private sectors. However these figures are not available for parliamentary constituencies.

The ONS compiles employment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions. Individuals are classified to the public or private sector according to their responses to the APS. Consequently, the classification of an individual's sector may differ from how they would be classified in QPSES statistics.

In the 12 month period April 2009 to March 2010, 71 per cent of the working population of the City of Chester constituency were employed by the private sector with the remaining 29 per cent employed in the public sector.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Government Departments: Procurement

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what exemptions from single tendering precesses are allowed to Departments awarding contracts to external organisations. [15959]

Mr Maude: Government procurement policy requires that contracts be awarded to achieve value for money, through fair and open competition, in compliance with

EU treaty principles and, where applicable, UK regulations implementing the EU procurement directives.

Single tendering is allowed only in specific circumstances, for which I would refer the hon. Member to sections 6 and 14 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2006:

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2006/5/regulation/6/made

and

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2006/5/regulation/14/made

In addition to these exemptions, very low-value ad hoc purchasing may sometimes be undertaken without specific competition, if it is more cost-effective to do so.

Government Departments: Work Experience

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps have been taken to broaden access to internships to under-represented minorities across Government departments; and if he will make a statement. [17534]

Mr Maude: The Cabinet Office is currently appraising options to enable all Departments to provide internships, mindful of the requirement to provide such schemes cost-effectively.

National Citizen Service

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what process he plans to follow to determine the skills to be offered under the National Citizen Service; and how civil society organisations can contribute to that process. [17961]

Mr Hurd: A commissioning process to select providers for National Citizen Service pilot schemes in summer 2011 was opened on 2 August. We expect to announce successful bidders shortly.

The Government are committed to ensuring that National Citizen Service is a challenging and enjoyable experience for young people which equips them with skills to make a difference in their communities. It will be for NCS providers to define the precise activities young people will undertake on their schemes, within the parameters set out in the specification documents. As the programme progresses, my Department will continue to work with NCS providers on developing the content for training and skills development activities.

Older People

Mr Amess: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 16 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 1222, on older people, for what reason estimates are not produced for the number of centenarians in each constituency and region; if he will make it his policy to produce such estimates for each health authority area; and if he will make a statement. [17417]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated October 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question to the Minister for the Cabinet Office asking for what reason estimates are not produced for the number of centenarians in each constituency and region; if he will make it his policy to produce such estimates for each health authority area; and if he will make a statement. (017417).

The Office for National Statistics publishes a mid-year population estimate for the age group 85 and over by constituencies, and age 90 and over by regions. They also publish estimates of the very elderly (including centenarians) for England and Wales combined.

Mid-year estimates of centenarians are not produced for local areas such as constituencies or health authority areas because the numbers are small and they are not robust at that level of detail. The Office for National Statistics does not have any plans to produce estimates of the number of centenarians for subnational areas.

Personal Income

Ian Swales: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the average income of *(a)* a household and *(b)* a single parent household was in (i) England, (ii) the North East and (iii) Redcar constituency in the most recent year for which figures are available. [16539]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck dated October 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the average income of a household and (b) a single parent household was in (i) England, (ii) the North East and (iii) Redcar constituency in the most recent year for which figures are available. (016539)

Table 1 shows the estimated average net weekly equivalised household income in England, and the North East (both before and after housing costs) for the years 2006/07 to 2008/09 (as a three-year average, because regional single year estimates are subject to volatility) at 2008/09 prices, and similar income estimates for Redcar parliamentary constituency for 2007/08, at 2008/09 prices. These estimates are the latest available. Estimates for single-parent households for Redcar parliamentary constituency are not available.

The estimates provided for England, and the North East, are based on data from the Households Below Average Income series produced by the Department for Work and Pensions, and small area statistics for Redcar parliamentary constituency produced by the ONS.

These estimates, as with any involving sample surveys, are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Table 1: Average net weekly equivalised[1] household income[2] for all households and single-parent households,[3] Redcar parliamentary constituency, the North East, and England, 2006-07—2008-09[4, 5]

£ per week

	All households				*Single-parent households*			
	Median		*Mean*		*Median*		*Mean*	
	Before housing costs	*After housing costs*	*Before housing costs*	*After housing costs*	*Before housing costs*	*After housing costs*	*Before housing costs*	*After housing costs*
England	403	349	504	440	292	211	329	253
North East[6]	357	317	418	372	257	201	287	229

Table 1: Average net weekly equivalised[1] household income[2] for all households and single-parent households,[3] Redcar parliamentary constituency, the North East, and England, 2006-07 2008-09[4,5]

£ per week

	All households				*Single-parent households*			
	Median		*Mean*		*Median*		*Mean*	
	Before housing costs	*After housing costs*	*Before housing costs*	*After housing costs*	*Before housing costs*	*After housing costs*	*Before housing costs*	*After housing costs*
Redcar	—	—	397	351				

[1] Data are based on OECD equivalisation factors which account for variation in household size and composition between survey years.

[2] Incomes are presented net of income tax payments, national insurance contributions and council tax.

[3] Single-parent households have been defined as households where there is at least one family consisting of one adult and at least one dependent child.

[4] Estimates for England, and the North East are presented as three-year averages in 2008-09 prices. Estimates for Redcar constituency (based on the 2010 parliamentary constituency boundaries) are for 2007-08 in 2008-09 prices.

[5] Housing costs include rent (gross of housing benefit), water charges, mortgage interest payments, structural insurance, ground rent and service charges.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions and Office for National Statistics

Public Houses: Urban Areas

Simon Hart: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether he has made an estimate of the number of public houses in urban areas which have closed in the last 12 months. [17872]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated October 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning the number of pubs in urban areas which have closed in the last 12 months. [17872]

Annual statistics on the number of enterprise deaths are available from the ONS release on Business Demography at:

www.statistics.gov.uk

However, ONS does not produce information on enterprise deaths split into urban and rural areas. The table below contains the latest statistics available, which show enterprise deaths in the UK in 2008 for public houses and bars.

2008 enterprise deaths in the UK for public houses and bars

Number	7,390

Social Enterprises: Finance

Luciana Berger: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what support his Department provides for people to *(a)* establish micro social enterprises and *(b)* connect with existing social enterprise networks. [17241]

Mr Hurd: Social enterprises of all sizes have an essential role to play in empowering individuals and communities to take control and create the big society. This Government are committed to supporting people to establish social enterprises, including micro social enterprises, by making it easier to run one, getting more resources into the sector, and making it easier for social enterprises to work with the state.

To help make it easier to set up and run a social enterprise, the joint Cabinet Office, Department for Business Innovation and Skills task force on cutting red tape is looking at how to reduce bureaucratic burdens and free up time and resources for social enterprises. To get more resources into the sector, the big society bank will be set up with money from dormant bank accounts to build a more sustainable way of financing organisations such as social enterprises, ready to play their part in the big society. And, to make it easier for social enterprises to work with the state and connect with existing social enterprise networks, the Office for Civil Society Strategic Partner's programme provides social enterprise support organisations with the resources they need to support their membership and to represent their voice to government.

Social Enterprises: Renewable Energy

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether funds from the Big Society Bank will be available to social enterprises which operate community-owned renewable energy schemes. [16588]

Mr Hurd: The Big Society Bank will be a wholesale institution with funds being used to assist or enable other organisations to give financial or other support to social enterprises, charities and voluntary and community organisations. The bank may invest in social enterprises which operate community-owned energy schemes, through investment intermediaries rather than directly.

Social Enterprises: West Midlands

Chris White: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many social enterprises were started in *(a)* Warwick and Leamington constituency, *(b)* Warwickshire and *(c)* the West Midlands in each year since 2000. [17430]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated October 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many new social enterprises were started in (a) Warwick and Leamington constituency, (b) Warwickshire and (c) the West Midlands in each year since 2000. [017430]

Information on social enterprises is not available. Annual statistics on the number of enterprise births are available by geographical area from the ONS release on Business Demography at:

www.statistics.gov.uk

Third Sector: Regulation

Richard Burden: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what mechanisms are in place for monitoring compliance by individual local authorities with the provisions of the Compact on relations with the voluntary and community sector; [16591]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of the contribution of the Compact to encouraging good relations between local authorities and voluntary organisations in their areas. [16594]

Mr Hurd: The Compact, published in December 2009, is an agreement between central Government and the voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector. Local Compacts, which are agreed locally between the local statutory sector and the local VCSE, make an important contribution to encouraging good relations between local authorities and voluntary organisations.

Compact Voice, supported by the Cabinet Office, offers practical help and guidance to local areas on how to get their Local Compacts working effectively. They also share best practice across England on how to improve partnerships between public bodies and the VCSE sector.

Local Compacts must remain a local priority, negotiated and agreed according to local needs. All 152 top-tier authorities have voluntarily agreed Local Compacts with their local VCSE sector.

Unemployment

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people in *(a)* Hartlepool constituency, *(b)* the North East and *(c)* England had been unemployed for more than six months in each of the last five years. [16622]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated October 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people in *(a)* Hartlepool constituency, *(b)* the North East and *(c)* England had been unemployed for more than six months in each of the last five years. (16622)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles unemployment statistics in line with International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS).

Table 1 shows the number of persons who have been unemployed for more than 6 months in England and the North East, from the APS, for the 12 month periods ending December from 2005 to 2009 and for the 12 month period ending March 2010, which is the latest available estimate. However, due to the small sample size, no reliable estimate is available for the Hartlepool constituency.

As an alternative, in table 2, we have provided the number of persons claiming Jobseeker's Allowance for more than 6 months in the Hartlepool constituency, along with the numbers for England and the North East, for December of each year from 2005 to 2009.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1. Number of persons unemployed for more than six months

Thousand

	England	*North East*	*Hartlepool*
12 months ending			
December 2005	436	27	n/a
December 2006	537	35	n/a
December 2007	556	32	n/a
December 2008	588	38	n/a
December 2009	869	58	n/a
March 2010	*953	**64	****n/a

n/a = Not available

1 Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates. See Guide to Quality as follows.

Guide to Quality:

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220

Key	*Coefficient of Variation (CV) (%)*	*Statistical Robustness*
*	0 ≤ CV<5	Estimates are considered precise
**	5 ≤ CV <10	Estimates are considered reasonably precise
***	10 ≤ CV <20	Estimates are considered acceptable
****	CV ≥ 20	Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes

Source:

Annual Population Survey

Vacancies

Duncan Hames: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many of the 467,000 unfilled vacancies identified by the Office for National Statistics vacancy survey in the three months to August 2010 were *(a)* full-time, *(b)* part-time and *(c)* temporary. [16729]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated October 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many of the 467,000 unfilled vacancies identified by the Office for National Statistics vacancy survey in the three months to August 2010 were (a) full-time, (b) part-time and (c) temporary. (016729)

The Vacancy Survey asks businesses for the number of vacancies that they are actively seeking to fill from outside their organisation. However, it does not collect any information on whether these vacancies are full-time, part-time, permanent or temporary.

An alternative source of vacancy information is administrative data from Jobcentre Plus. This source has partial coverage, only collecting information on vacancies that are registered with Jobcentre Plus. In August 2010, Jobcentre Plus had 280,000 unfilled vacancies in their system, of which 75% were full-time and 25% part-time. Information is not available on how many of the vacancies related to permanent or temporary work.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

HEALTH

Arthritis

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish on his Department's website links to information on the signs and symptoms of rheumatoid arthritis for patients and clinicians which has been drawn up by the Rheumatology Futures Project Group. [17966]

Paul Burstow: The Department will publish on its website a link to the information on the signs and symptoms of rheumatoid arthritis drawn up by the Rheumatology Futures Project Group. This will be accessible at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Healthcare/Electivecare/index.htm

Arthritis: Health Services

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the ability of GP consortia to commission rheumatoid arthritis services appropriately. [17388]

Mr Simon Burns: The White Paper 'Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS' set out our proposals to devolve power and responsibility for commissioning services to local consortia of general practitioner (GP) practices.

GPs play a crucial role in co-ordinating patient care and committing national health service resources through daily clinical decisions. Our proposals for this new model of commissioning draw on the regular contact that GPs have with patients and their more detailed understanding of patients' wider health care needs.

We propose that GP consortia will be responsible for commissioning the great majority of NHS services. We will expect consortiums to involve relevant health and social care professionals from all sectors in helping design care pathways or care packages that achieve more integrated delivery of care, higher quality, and more efficient use of NHS resources. This will create an effective dialogue across all health and, where appropriate, social care professionals.

To support GP consortiums in their commissioning decisions, we will also create an independent NHS Commissioning Board.

'Liberating the NHS: Commissioning for Patients' invited views on a number of areas of the commissioning agenda. The engagement exercise closed on 11 October and the Department is now analysing all of the contributions received.

Big Drink Debate

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS staff attended each Big Drink Debate event; and at what cost to the public purse. [17393]

Anne Milton: Attendance by national health service staff at events linked to regional Big Drink Debates was as follows:

London: One event was attended by six NHS staff.

West midlands: 16 events were attended by a total of 48 NHS staff.

North-west: One event was attended by 50 NHS staff.

North-east: Two events were attended by a total of 44 NHS staff.

South-east: Two events but NHS staff attended in their own time.

The Yorkshire and Humber and the east midlands regions also held events but do not hold records of NHS staff attendance. The east of England and south-west regions did not hold any Big Drink Debate events.

It is not possible to calculate the cost to the taxpayer of NHS staff attendance at these events.

Dementia

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what funding his Department has allocated for expenditure on dementia services in 2010-11; and under what budgetary headings he expects such expenditure to be incurred; [17622]

(2) what recent assessment his Department has made of progress in the implementation of each objective of the National Dementia Strategy for England. [17660]

Paul Burstow: The Department does not break down primary care trust (PCT) allocations by policies, at either the national or local level. It is for PCTs to decide their priorities for investment locally. The revised NHS Operating Framework issued in June 2010 made clear that PCTs and their partners should publish how they are implementing the National Dementia Strategy to increase local accountability for prioritisation. This is to support a move away from central command to local determination.

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent discussions he has had with NHS trusts on the distribution of funding provided through the National Dementia Strategy; and if he will make a statement; [17632]

(2) how much the NHS has spent on dementia services in *(a)* Gloucestershire and *(b)* England in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [17633]

Paul Burstow: No discussions have taken place with national health service trusts specifically on the distribution of funding for dementia services. The Department does not break down primary care trust (PCT) allocations by policies, at either the national or local level. It is for PCTs to decide their priorities for investment locally. Information is not held centrally on expenditure on dementia services, either in Gloucestershire or England as a whole. However, the NHS Information Centre is currently undertaking an audit of dementia services in England, the results of which are expected to be available in November.

Mr Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether he expects implementation of the National Dementia Strategy to include steps to improve the quality of care for people with alcohol-related dementia; [17634]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect of the implementation of the National Dementia Strategy on the quality of care provided for people diagnosed with alcohol-related dementia. [17763]

Paul Burstow: Implementation of the National Dementia Strategy should benefit all people with the condition, including those with alcohol-related dementia. The Strategy states that the risk of dementia may be reduced if we protect our general health, including drinking less alcohol. Information on the quality of care provided for people diagnosed with alcohol-related dementia is not collected centrally.

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding his Department provided for medical research into dementia in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2009-10; and what percentage of his Department's health research budget this represented in each such year. [17659]

Paul Burstow: The expenditure figures for the Department are shown in the following table.

Estimated expenditure on dementia research

	Proportion of total expenditure from research and development revenue budget (percentage)	*£ million*
2007-08	2.9	22.2
2008-09	2.2	18.4
2009-10	1.4	12.7

Departmental Manpower

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff are currently employed by his Department, broken down by *(a)* grade and *(b)* age; and how many were so employed in (i) 1980, (ii) 1983, (iii) 1987, (iv) 1992, (v) 1997, (vi) 2001 and (vii) 2005. [17359]

Mr Simon Burns: Information about how many staff are employed by the Department, broken down by grade and age, is included in the Civil Service Statistics published on the Cabinet Office's website at:

www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/resources/stats-archive/archived-reports.aspx

Departmental NDPBs

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the statement of 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 505-06, on public bodies reform, what the functions of the Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens are; which of these functions are to be retained; and which bodies he proposes to have responsibility for fulfilling these functions. [18311]

Anne Milton: The functions of the Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens (ACDP) are outlined in the current terms of reference:

> "To advise the Health and Safety Executive, and Ministers for the Department of Health and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, and their counterparts under devolution in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, as required, on all aspects of hazards and risks to workers and others from exposure to pathogens".

All the functions of the ACDP will be retained and, following its reconstitution as a departmental committee of experts, ACDP will continue to be responsible for the fulfilling of those functions.

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the statement of 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 505-06, on public bodies reform, what the functions of the Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition are; which of these functions are to be retained; and which bodies he proposes to have responsibility for fulfilling these functions. [18316]

Anne Milton: The Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition (SACN) provides advice to the Food Standards Agency and United Kingdom Health Departments as well as other Government agencies and Departments. Its remit includes matters concerning nutrient content of individual foods, advice on diet and the nutritional status of people. The remit/function of SACN will remain unchanged, following its reconstitution into a departmental committee of experts. Once the change is enacted SACN will continue to be responsible for the remit/function but as a departmental committee of experts.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to recruit staff to senior Civil Service posts in the next 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [17386]

Mr Simon Burns: A recruitment freeze is currently in place, which affects external recruitment into the civil service, with exemptions allowed for business critical and frontline posts so as not to jeopardise frontline delivery. The Fast Stream graduate programme is also exempt.

In addition to the recruitment freeze, staffing plans will not be finalised until after the spending review, when the impact on Departments will be made clearer.

As a result, there is only one planned senior recruitment in the pipeline and that is for the role of Chief Medical Officer. The appointment process will follow the protocol, drawn up by the Senior Leadership Committee and the Civil Service Commissioners, which outlines the process in which appointments to and within the Top 200 (the most senior posts in the civil service) are handled.

Diabetes: Young People

John Glen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to reduce the number of children and young people at high risk of potentially preventable complications of diabetes. [17959]

Paul Burstow: It is vital that children with diabetes get good quality clinical care and that health and education services work in partnership to ensure that children can be supported while living a full, active life.

NHS Diabetes, the national service improvement team for diabetes, has developed a commissioning toolkit, which will assist in the commissioning of local services for children and young people with diabetes. It has also established a Paediatric Diabetes Network in each of the strategic health authority (SHA) regions to drive improvements in the services delivered to children and young people with diabetes.

NHS Diabetes is also working on various projects to improve the care of children and young people with diabetes. They include:

producing materials for children and young people and their families to help educate them about managing the condition as it progresses. This work is still in the early stages of development, but is being built upon the developing evidence base from a number of relevant clinical studies;

the establishment of a Paediatric Diabetes Network in each of the SHA regions to drive improvements in the services delivered to children and young people with diabetes. The aim of the paediatric networks is to define a clear philosophy of care, which incorporates improving outcomes and quality of life for children and young people living with diabetes; and

running a task and finish group which is developing work on health care professional training and education; and children's, young people's and families' education. The health care professional work is being carried out with the royal colleges and others to influence standards and agree required competencies and new curriculums, which reflect good practice publishing a Commissioning Care Guide, this sets out the appropriate emotional and psychological care interventions for each facet of diabetes care. This is of particular relevance for children and young people to enable them tackle the challenges of their conditions and care for themselves effectively from day to day.

General Practitioners: Finance

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 15 September 2010, *Official Report*, columns 1110-11W, on general practitioners: finance, what funding formula the NHS Commissioning Board will use to allocate money to general practitioner consortia. [17988]

Mr Simon Burns: For 2013-14 onwards, the NHS Commissioning Board will be responsible for the fair and efficient use of resources in the national health service. The board will make allocations to general practitioner (GP) consortia on the basis of securing equivalent access to NHS services in all areas, relative to the prospective burden of disease and disability.

The detail of how resources are allocated to GP Consortia will be a matter for the Commissioning Board. However, the independent Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation has been asked by the Secretary of State to continue to provide advice on the equitable distribution of NHS resources during the transition to the board.

Shadow allocations to GP Consortia will be published in late 2011 for 2012-13, and actual allocations for 2013-14 in late 2012.

Haematological Cancer

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate he has made of the proportion of patients with a haematological cancer who receive chemotherapy *(a)* in total and *(b)* at home. [17754]

Paul Burstow: For 2008-09, the number of finished consultant episodes where the primary diagnosis was haematological cancer and where chemotherapy was provided was 96,505.

These data are for those treated in national health service hospitals or in the independent sector, commissioned by the NHS. This figure does not reflect an exact count of people as the same person may have been admitted on more than one occasion.

Information for those who received treatment at home is not held centrally.

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what his most recent estimate is on the average length of hospital stay for people with haematological cancers after *(a)* elective and *(b)* emergency admissions; [17755]

(2) how many *(a)* admissions, *(b)* emergency admissions and *(c)* bed days there were for (i) all haematological cancers, (ii) all leukaemias, (iii) Hodgkin lymphoma, (iv) non-Hodgkin lymphoma, (v) myeloma, (vi) malignant immunoproliferative diseases and (vii) each other haematological cancer in each (A) primary care trust and (B) cancer network in the latest period for which figures are available. [17777]

Paul Burstow: Information on the average length of hospital stay for those with a primary diagnosis of haematological cancer for elective and emergency admissions during 2008-09 has been placed in the Library.

Information on the number of admissions, emergency admissions and bed days there were for all haematological cancers, all leukaemias, Hodgkin lymphoma, non-Hodgkin Lymphoma, myeloma, malignant immunoproliferative diseases and each other haematological cancer in each primary care for 2008-09, the latest period for which figures are available, has been placed in the Library. This figure does not represent a count of people as the same person may have been admitted on more than one occasion. Information at cancer network level is not held centrally.

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he made of the cost to the public purse of *(a)* surgical interventions, *(b)* complex radiotherapy, *(c)* chemotherapy and *(d)* stem cell transplants for patients with haematological cancers (i) in each primary care trust, (ii) in each cancer network and (iii) nationally in the latest year for which figures are available. [17756]

Paul Burstow: Information on the cost of surgical interventions, complex radiotherapy, chemotherapy and stem cell transplants for patients with haematological cancers, in each primary care trust (PCT), in each cancer network and nationally, cannot be provided in the format requested.

An estimate of the cost of treating haematological cancer for 2008-09, the most recent year for which figures are available, for each PCT, each cancer network and nationally, has been placed in the Library.

Expenditure on complex radiotherapy or chemotherapy is included within the cancer, other subcategory. This is because there is insufficient information within the coding to map these costs to a specific cancer subcategory.

Heart Diseases

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate his Department has made of the appropriate number of implantations of *(a)* pacemakers and *(b)* implantable cardiac defibrillators per million of population. [17527]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department does not make any estimates of the appropriate number of implantations of pacemakers and implantable cardiac defibrillators. It is for local commissioners to decide what local services to fund depending on the priorities around their local population.

However, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's technology appraisal guidance on Implantable cardioverter defibrillators for arrhythmias (TA95) sets out current thinking on good practice in this area. A copy of this can be found at:

http://guidance.nice.org.uk/TA95

Insulin

John Glen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will assess the contribution of insulin pump therapy use to improving the quality of life of people with type 1 diabetes; [17894]

(2) if he will take steps to increase the level of use of insulin pumps as a treatment for type 1 diabetes. [17960]

Paul Burstow: For those people with diabetes who have been identified by their healthcare professional as being suitable for insulin pump therapy, we would not expect there to be any unnecessary delays in the provision of insulin pumps.

The National Clinical Director for Diabetes, Dr Rowan Hillson MBE is chairing a working group to specifically focus on the uptake of insulin pumps, which will meet shortly.

In July 2008, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) issued a review of its guidance on insulin pump therapy, which is supported by separate guidance on the commissioning of insulin pump services. Implementation of the NICE guidance is the responsibility of commissioners and/or providers.

While insulin pump therapy can make a difference to glycaemic control and quality of life in some people, it is not appropriate for everyone. Therefore, all decisions about insulin pump therapy and the means of delivering it must be made in consultation between the person with diabetes (and/or their parents or carer) and their healthcare professional.

It is not the role of the Department to assess the impact of medical technologies.

Midwives: Age

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the age profile is of midwives employed by the NHS. [17589]

Anne Milton: The age profile of midwives employed in the national health service in England is shown in the following table.

Midwives by age as at 30 September 2009

Age	*Headcount*
Under 25	710
25-29	2,175
30-34	2,641
35-39	2,900
40-44	4,490
45-49	5,014
50-54	3,591
55-59	1,890
60-64	770
65 and over	132
Unknown[1]	2,138

[1] Data on the age of bank staff are not available.

Source:

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census

National Stroke Strategy

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he intends to review progress on implementation of the National Stroke Strategy. [18240]

Mr Simon Burns: Progress with implementation of the stroke strategy is kept under regular review. The Department receives information, data and feedback from a number of independent sources such as the Stroke Sentinel Audit and the Stroke Improvement National Audit Programme. The national health service reports on a Tier 1 Vital Sign and all strategic health authorities monitor progress with implementation of the strategy. In addition, in February the National Audit Office published a comprehensive report on progress in improving stroke care following the launch of the stroke strategy in 2007.

NHS: Accountability

Dr Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what statutory duties are placed upon local authority health overview and scrutiny committees; and which such duties they will retain in 2014. [16749]

Mr Simon Burns: The Health and Social Care Act 2001 states that each local authority must have a committee that is able to undertake the health overview and scrutiny role. The role comprises of two elements:

(a) To be consulted by national health service bodies on any proposals for substantial developments of the health service in the area of a local authority, or for a substantial variation in the provision of such service; and

(b) To be able to take an overview, and then scrutinise health and well-being issues that are a priority to local people.

Following the recent consultation on the White Paper—Equity and Excellence—and the proposals contained in Local Democratic Legitimacy, and in light of feedback received, the Government are considering the way forward for health scrutiny and the balance of powers and duties on local authorities.

Non-departmental Public Bodies

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the statement of 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 505-06, on public bodies reform, how many staff are employed by the Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition; how many such staff will be transferred to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* new bodies; how many such staff will be made redundant; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of redundancy payments for these staff. [18172]

Anne Milton: The Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition do not employ staff, therefore there will be no redundancies or associated redundancy costs. The secretariat for the committee is provided by the Department. A secretariat function will continue to be provided for the reconstituted committee of experts.

Respiratory Diseases

Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of regional variations in the prevalence of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. [18137]

Mr Simon Burns: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Gateshead (Ian Mearns) on 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 394W.

Smoking

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on the exercise by local authorities of powers restricting smoking in public places. [17287]

Anne Milton: Local councils exercise power to restrict smoking in public places in accordance with the guidance for council regulatory officers—'Implementation of smokefree legislation in England', which was compiled by local government regulation (formerly LACORS), the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH) and the Trading Standards Institute.

The evidence indicates that the exercise of these powers has been particularly successful in achieving the objectives of the legislation, compliance with the regulations and the protection of people from the harm done by second-hand tobacco smoke, with minimal burden on businesses. During 2006 and early 2007 the Department funded training for local authority officers and for businesses, particularly in the hospitality sector, to assist with the smooth implementation of the regulations. The training carried out by the CIEH was widely recognised at the time as making a significant contribution to the successful implementation of the smokefree law.

Social Services: Regulation

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to consult social workers on proposed changes to arrangements for their registrations. [17656]

Paul Burstow: The proposed changes to the arrangements for the registration of social workers were announced in July 2010 as part of the Department's arm's-length bodies review Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS. This review contains indicative timescales for implementation, which will require primary legislation and be subject to the legislative timetable.

More detailed plans will be developed in discussion with all interested parties, including the Social Work Reform Board. These plans will be determined by the need to maintain public protection, professional confidence and ensure that people are treated fairly and with respect.

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to ensure that the proposed new body for the regulation of social workers includes the term social work in its title. [17657]

Paul Burstow: An oversight group has been established to support the transfer of General Social Care Council (GSCC) functions to the Health Professions Council (HPC). This group, which includes the chief executives of both the GSCC and the HPC, has been asked to advise Ministers on an appropriate name for the new organisation.

The Social Work Reform Board and other key partners in the sector are being engaged in discussions about the transfer, including the name of the new body. However, it will ultimately be for Parliament to approve any proposed new name.

Strokes

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what advice is provided to carers and families of people who have had a stroke on *(a)* dietary requirements and *(b)* future stroke prevention following their discharge from hospital; and if he will make a statement. [17356]

Mr Simon Burns: The stroke strategy launched in December 2007, sets out 20 'quality markers' which outline the features of high quality stroke care. This includes what advice and support should be given to stroke survivors and their carers/families on the prevention of recurrent stroke through life-style interventions, such as the key components of a healthy diet, when they are discharged from hospital to the community.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what research his Department has commissioned on *(a)* strokes and *(b)* related conditions in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement; [17358]

(2) whether his Department has commissioned recent research on the repair and replacement of dead brain cells in people following a stroke; and if he will make a statement; [17378]

(3) what research his Department has commissioned on the *(a)* causes and *(b)* prevention of stroke since 1990; and if he will make a statement. [17413]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department's National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) clinical research network is currently providing national health service research infrastructure support to 161 studies in stroke and a range of studies on related conditions. Details can be found on the UK Clinical Research Network portfolio database at:

http://public.ukcrn.org.uk/search/Portfolio.aspx?Levell=6

Records of individual NHS supported research projects collected up to September 2007, including details of projects on causes, prevention, and other aspects of stroke and on related conditions, are available on the archived national research register (NRR) at:

https://portal.nihr.ac.uk/Pages/NRRArchiveSearch.aspx

The NRR evolved out of a pilot project in 1998. Some of the records in the pilot referred to projects from the early 1990s and these were incorporated into the register.

Two of the NIHR's biomedical research centres are undertaking research relating to therapies for neurodegeneration following stroke.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department has taken since 1990 to increase the standard of healthcare for people who have had a stroke; and if he will make a statement. [17379]

Mr Simon Burns: In line with advances in medicine and technology, the Department recognised the importance of improving stroke services and included specific milestones, targets and actions in the National Service Framework (NSF) for Older People launched in March 2001.

The national Stroke Strategy, launched in 2007, set out a comprehensive approach to the provision of stroke care with quality markers covering all aspects of stroke care from prevention and awareness through to long-term care in the community. It was accompanied by central funding over the three years 2008-09 to 2010-11 to support specific early aspects of implementation. Over the same period there was an annual increase in primary care trust allocations, among other things, to reflect the cost of implementing the strategy.

To implement the strategy, the Department established the Stroke Improvement Programme and 28 stroke care networks. They are currently delivering the Accelerating Stroke Improvement programme which aims to help local areas to continue to improve stroke care.

The coalition Government are committed to supporting continued improvement in stroke care and their long-term goal is to see stroke services in this country become among the best in the world.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what aftercare is provided on discharge from hospital to people who have had a stroke; and if he will make a statement. [17414]

Mr Simon Burns: The national stroke strategy launched in December 2007, sets out 20 'quality markers' which outline features of high quality stroke care across the pathway from prevention and awareness to life-long support in the community. A copy of the strategy has already been placed in the Library. Chapter 3, 'Life after stroke', sets out the wide range of support someone may need after a stroke. The range of support can include speech therapy, psychological support, physiotherapy, access to leisure, education, activities and work, accessible and aphasia-friendly information and support groups and help-lines.

A recent National Audit Office report on stroke services noted that more improvement was needed on the post-acute and longer-term-care part of the pathway. The Accelerating Stroke Improvement programme is therefore encouraging local areas to focus on improving arrangements for joint care plans, for six month and subsequent reviews and for access to psychological support. These measures offer opportunities for assessing the needs of stroke survivors and their carers. Meeting those needs more effectively will, over time, improve outcomes for people post-stroke.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he made of the number of *(a)* men and *(b)* women in each age group in each health authority area who had a stroke at each level of severity in each of the last three years. [17421]

Mr Simon Burns: The data in the table, which has been placed in the Library, include the number of finished consultant episodes where there was a primary or secondary diagnosis of stroke. This has been broken down by gender for age groups 64 years and under; 65 to 75 years old and 76 years and above, and by strategic health authority of residence from 2006-07 to 2008-09.

Information is not collected centrally on the severity of stroke.

Note:

The data do not represent the number of different patients since a person may have more than one episode of care within the same stay in hospital or in different stays in the same year. The data may in some years not total to the published finished consultant episodes for stroke since the data provided do not include episodes where the sex of the patient was not specified or not known. Patients who die before reaching hospital or who are not admitted to hospital are not counted in the data.

Tobacco: Sales

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to prevent children from viewing tobacco displays; and if he will make a statement. [17471]

Anne Milton: The Government are currently considering regulations, including the Tobacco Advertising and Promotion (Display) (England) Regulations 2010, and developing options around the display of tobacco in shops that seek to ensure an appropriate balance between public health priorities and burdens on business.

JUSTICE

Answers received for publication Monday 18 October 2010.

Alternatives To Prison

Toby Perkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has for future funding of the intensive alternative to custody programme for offenders in Derbyshire. [17183]

Mr Blunt: At present there are no plans to extend central funding for IAC beyond the end of the current financial year.

The Derbyshire scheme is 50% funded from the original pilot fund and 50% from the Regional Director of Offender Management. The pilot will end in Derbyshire once the capacity for commencements is reached. The target for this financial year is 80 commencements and approximately 50 have been achieved to date. Therefore, it is anticipated that the IAC pilot will have reached capacity in December 2010 after which time no further recommendations for IAC will be made to the Courts. This will allow existing IAC orders to be completed within the present funding arrangements.

Locally, options are being explored to maintain some key elements of IAC through partnership arrangements but the Probation Trust is not able to continue to provide IAC within existing resources.

Coroners and Justice Act 2009

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the implementation of section 155 of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009, with particular reference to the allocation of funds recovered under that provision; [16571]

(2) when he plans to bring into force section 155 and related provisions of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009. [16572]

Mr Blunt: Part 7 of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 (Criminal Memoirs etc.) was commenced by the previous Administration on 6 April 2010 and applies throughout the United Kingdom. It created a civil scheme whereby the High Courts in England and Wales and Northern Ireland, and the Court of Session in Scotland, can make certain offenders the subject of an "exploitation proceeds order". The offender may be ordered to pay the value of any benefit derived from the exploitation of material about the commission of serious offences to the relevant enforcement authority. Section 155(7) states that any sum received by an enforcement authority pursuant to an 'exploitation proceeds order' must be paid into the Consolidated Fund (or the Scottish Consolidated Fund where the scheme is operated in Scotland).

David Kelly Death Inquiry

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on what dates *(a)* he and *(b)* officials of his Department have held meetings relating to the death of Dr David Kelly since his appointment; and who was present at each such meeting. [16696]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: I have discussed matters relating to Dr David Kelly in a meeting with the hon Member for Oxford West and Abingdon (Nicola Blackwood) on 21 July, Lord Hutton on 7 September and in routine meetings with the Attorney-General during which we discuss a range of issues. In order to support me on this matter, officials have met to discuss this issue as and when necessary.

Defamation: Legal Aid

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent estimate he has made of the proportion of civil legal aid which is spent on libel cases. [16832]

Mr Djanogly: Libel cases are out of scope and are therefore not covered by legal aid.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* officials of his Department and *(b)* external advisers are working on his Department's review of short sentences. [16671]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice is conducting a full assessment of sentencing to ensure that it is effective in deterring crime, protecting the public, punishing offenders and reducing reoffending.

A small team within the Ministry of Justice has been working on the assessment, including five people full-time. This team is formed by officials based in existing criminal policy teams within the Ministry of Justice. The team has been supported by other officials across the Ministry of Justice as part of their other duties.

There are no advisers external to Government working on the assessment of sentencing. We have been consulting informally among a wide range of people and organisations, and we will publish proposals for public consultation in a Green Paper on rehabilitation and sentencing later this autumn.

Departmental Work Experience

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many interns his Department has engaged in the last 12 months; and how many were *(a)* unpaid, *(b)* remunerated with expenses only and *(c)* paid at the rate of the national minimum wage or above. [17219]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice has engaged 25 interns in the last 12 months. Of these, 22 were paid at a salary of £22,755 pa (the entry level for the first management grade). Three were part-time students engaged through specific schemes run by their educational institutions as part of their studies. These were unpaid.

Pleural Plaques

Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects his Department to begin making payments in respect of pleural plaques; and if he will make a statement. [16826]

Mr Djanogly: The extra-statutory scheme, which was set up to provide one-off payments of £5000 to individuals who had begun but not resolved a legal claim for compensation for pleural plaques at the time of the House of Lords judgment, opened for applications on 2 August 2010.

Further details about eligibility for the scheme and how to apply are available from:

https://pleuralplaques.justice.gov.uk

or by telephoning the helpline number on 0300 303 8150. Applications can be made through the website or by phone, and all applications must be received by 1 August 2011 to be eligible for payment under the scheme.

Prison Escapes

Nick Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what proportion of prisoners absconded from *(a)* Prescoed Prison, Usk and *(b)* each other open prison in 2009; [16596]

(2) how many of the prisoners who absconded from Prescoed Prison, Usk in the last six months had been convicted of crimes which included violent behaviour; [16597]

(3) how many prisoners have absconded from Prescoed Prison, Usk in the last six months. [16598]

Mr Blunt: The number of prisoners absconding from each open prison in 2009 is shown in the following table. It is not possible to represent this as a proportion without knowing the throughput of prisoners in each prison over the year period. Whilst figures on numbers of prisoners in a prison at any point in time are held centrally, data on throughput of prisoners are not held centrally and it would incur disproportionate cost to ask each open prison to calculate this figure.

There has been one abscond from HMP Prescoed/Usk relating to a prisoner convicted of violent crime between 1 March 2010 and 30 September 2010.

There have been two absconds from HMP Prescoed/Usk between 1 March 2010 and 30 September 2010.

The number of absconds has decreased year on year. In the financial year 2006-07 there were 555 absconds whilst in 2008-09 there were 363.

Recapture rates remain high at 96%. Figures for 2009-10 are due to be published later this year.

Table: Absconds from prisons in England and Wales—January to December 2009

Establishment	*Number of absconds*
Askham Grange	3
Dover	2
East Sutton Park	1
Ford	33
Grendon	22
Moorland	23
Hewell	17
Hollesley Bay	12
Kirkham	12
Kirklevington	4
Leyhill	38
Lindholme	1
North Sea Camp	13
Norwich (Britten House Open Element)	3
Prescoed	3
Standford Hill	19
Sudbury	30
Thorn Cross	39

Note:
These figures have been drawn from live administrative data systems which may be amended at any time. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Prisons: Food

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of food supplied to prisons under contracts negotiated by the National Offender Management Service was domestically produced in the latest period for which figures are available. [16861]

Mr Blunt: The most recent information is supplied to the Ministry of Justice (including public sector prisons in England and Wales) by prime food contractors under contracts negotiated by HM Prison Service, now part of the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) is shown in the following table.

	Percentage
Bakery (September 9 - October 10)	
Bread loaves and rolls	100
Dairy (September 9 - October 10)	
Whole Eggs (in shells)	100
Fresh milk (whole, semi-skimmed, skimmed)	100
Cheese	93
Fresh vegetables, salads and fruit (September 9 October 10)	
Ware potatoes (whole and unprepared)	98
Processed potatoes (whole and cut)	100
Roots and onions (carrots, parsnips, onions, turnips and swedes)	54
Brassicas (Brussels sprouts, cabbage and cauliflower)	99
Legumes (beans broad, beans runner and dwarf, peas (green for market), peas (green for processing), peas (harvested dry)	n/a
Protected vegetables (tomatoes, cucumber, lettuce, celery and sweet peppers)	3
Other vegetables (asparagus, leeks, watercress, mushrooms)	70
Orchard fruit (dessert apples, culinary apples, pears and plums)	0
	[1]100
Soft fruits (strawberries, raspberries, blackberries and blackcurrants)	20
Frozen meat and poultry (April 8 March 9)	
Poultry meat	2
Beef and veal	46
Mutton and lamb	65
Bacon	0
Pork	18
Fish	83

[1] 100% applies to all culinary apples purchased

Probation

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what assessment he has made of the likely effects on *(a)* Probation Service staff numbers and *(b)* prisoners in Greater London of Probation Service spending reductions of (i) 10, (ii) 20 and (iii) 30 per cent; [16604]

(2) what assessment he has made of the likely effects on prisoner numbers in London of Probation Service spending reductions of *(a)* 10, *(b)* 20 and *(c)* 30 per cent; [16606]

(3) what assessment he has made of the likely effects on the *(a)* caseload of Greater London Probation Service and *(b)* provision by that service of court reports and supervision of people on parole licences of Probation Service spending reductions of (i) 10, (ii) 20 and (iii) 30 per cent. [17069]

Mr Blunt: Like other public bodies, London Probation Trust must seek to use public funds in as effective a way as possible. As part of that, they must apply rigorous financial controls and undertake financial planning against a range of factors. These include, not only their overall budget, but also changes to the number of offenders requiring supervision, the effectiveness of interventions, and offending patterns. The Director of Offender Management for London, who commissions the services provided by London Probation Trust, will finalise the negotiations with them in the light of the outcome of the comprehensive spending review. These discussions will stress the need to ensure that front line activities are delivered as efficiently as possible and that HQ and support costs are minimised.

Prosecutions: Convictions

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* convictions there have been for offences under section 32(1) of the Chiropractors Act 1994 in each year since 2000. [17099]

Mr Blunt: The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under Section 32 of the Chiropractors Act 1994, England and Wales 2000 to 2008 (latest available) are shown in the table.

Data for 2009 will be published on 21 October 2010.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty[1] [2] at all courts for offences under Section 32 of the Chiropractors Act 1994, England and Wales 2000 to 2008

	Proceeded against	Found guilty
2000[3]	—	—
2001	—	—
2002	—	—
2003	—	—
2004	—	—
2005	—	—
2006	2	1
2007	2	2
2008[4]	—	—

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Staffordshire Police Force were only able to supply a sample of data for magistrates courts proceedings covering one full week in each quarter for 2000. Estimates based on this sample are included in the figures as they are considered sufficiently robust at this high level of analysis.

[4] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Trials: Administrative delays

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the likely effects on *(a)* caseload, *(b)* processing times and *(c)* the number of adjournments in courts in Greater London of HM Courts Service spending reductions of (i) 10, (ii) 20 and (iii) 30 per cent. [16605]

Mr Djanogly: No assessment has been made of the potential effects of spending reductions on courts in London. The Government are committed to ensuring that there is an efficient and effective justice system. The impact of potential spending reductions on HM Courts Service cannot be assessed until the announcement of the outcome of the spending review.

Answers received for publication Tuesday 19 October 2010

Prisoner Activities

17. **Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to increase the proportion of time that prisoners spend in purposeful activity. [17828]

Mr Blunt: The Government are committed to overhauling the system of rehabilitation and we will set out our intentions in a forthcoming Green Paper.

We believe that custodial and community sentences should punish offenders, but they should also be productive - focused on getting offenders into work, off drugs and contributing to society.

We are exploring how prisoners could spend more of their time doing productive, meaningful work. As part of this we are looking to expand the prisoner working week to up to 40 hours.

Welfare Benefit Cases: Legal Aid

19. **Simon Kirby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department spent on legal aid in respect of defendants in cases involving welfare benefits in each year since 2007. [17830]

Mr Djanogly: There are no legally aided defendants in welfare benefits cases. Those responding to such cases would usually be a central or local government department, such as the Department for Work and Pensions.

Legal aid is available for advice, though not normally for representation, on welfare benefits matters, including for individuals appealing to the Social Security and Child Support Tribunal. During the financial year 2007-08 expenditure on legal aid for welfare benefits matters was £22.3 million, in 2008-09 it was £24.8 million and in 2009-10 it was £28.3 million.

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department spent on legal aid in respect of defendants in cases involving welfare benefits in each year since 2007. [17820]

Mr Djanogly: There are no legally aided defendants in welfare benefits cases. Those responding to such cases would usually be a central or local government department, such as the Department for Work and Pensions.

Legal aid is available for advice, though not normally for representation, on welfare benefits matters, including for individuals appealing to the Social Security and Child Support Tribunal. During the financial year 2007-08 expenditure on legal aid for welfare benefits matters was £22.3 million, in 2008-09 it was £24.8 million and in 2009-10 it was £28.3 million.

Crown Court Sentencing Survey

20. **Anna Soubry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of Crown Court sentencing survey forms in assisting judges in their sentencing duties. [17831]

Mr Blunt: The Crown Court Sentencing Survey is being conducted by the Sentencing Council. It is essential to enable the Sentencing Council to fulfil its statutory responsibilities to prepare guidelines, monitor their use and assess impact. It will help the Council to produce guidelines that will provide greater assistance to judges.

Prison Service Staff: Training

21. **Glyn Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on the provision of training for prison service staff on the management of offenders with mental health conditions. [17832]

Mr Blunt: Ministry of Justice and Department of Health ministers and senior officials discuss offender health issues regularly. Over 17,000 prison officers received mental health awareness training between 2006 and 2009. A new mental health training framework was launched in 2009-2010, which regional offender health teams now co-ordinate.

Prison Building Programme

22. **Mr Whittingdale:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has for the future of the prison building programme; and if he will make a statement. [17833]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice is committed to publishing a Green Paper on Rehabilitation and Sentencing, consulting on our longer term plans for offender management. As a consequence the Ministry will re-evaluate its strategy for prison capacity.

Magistrates Courts

23. **Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to increase the administrative efficiency of magistrates' courts. [17835]

Mr Djanogly: Significant efficiencies have already been made through the implementation of the Criminal Justice Simple Speedy Summary (CJSSS) programme in the magistrates courts. This programme has improved timeliness of cases and reduced the number of hearings per case. HMCS continues to improve administration efficiency within the magistrates courts through the introduction of lean working.

Aarhus Convention

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his policy is on the recent draft findings ACCC/C/2008/33 of the UNECE Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee on compliance by the United Kingdom with its obligations under the Aarhus Convention. [17117]

Richard Benyon: I have been asked to reply.

We take our commitment to access to justice under the Aarhus Convention extremely seriously, and have carefully considered the findings of the Compliance Committee in ACCC/C/2008/33. We believe that the law across the United Kingdom is compliant with all obligations under the Convention, and we continue to look for ways to improve access to justice in the UK.

In this regard, the Ministry of Justice expects to codify the case law on Protective Costs Orders, and implement the necessary rule changes by April 2011.

The Ministry of Justice will also consult shortly on whether the factors which the courts should consider when deciding whether to dispense with cross undertakings in damages should be set out in court rules or the guidance, and the detail of those factors. Further discussions are continuing with the judiciary and other interested parties with regard to the time limits for judicial review.

Courts: Standards

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent assessment he has made of the potential effects on the *(a)* caseload, *(b)* processing times and *(c)* number of adjournments in courts in Northumbria of HM Courts Service expenditure reductions of (i) 10, (ii) 20 and (iii) 30 per cent. [17577]

Mr Djanogly: No assessment has been made of the potential effects of spending reductions on courts in Northumbria. The Government are committed to ensuring that there is an efficient and effective justice system. The impact of potential spending reductions on HM Courts Service cannot be assessed until the announcement of the outcome of the spending review.

Criminal Justice System

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment his Department has made of the cost-effectiveness of *(a)* the criminal justice system and *(b)* early intervention and prevention of crime programmes. [17715]

Nick Herbert: One of the Ministry of Justice's principal aims is to increase the overall value for money and cost-effectiveness of the system through a range of reform and efficiency measures. For example, the Ministry's 'Transforming Justice' programme has focussed heavily on greater system efficiency, which will remain a priority over the coming Parliament and through the deficit reduction plan. Criminal justice agencies have analytical tools to enable the analysis of impacts across the criminal justice system.

There is good evidence for some of the approaches taken to reduce crime. However, most of the evidence addresses effectiveness in reducing offending rather than cost-effectiveness. The use of payment by results mechanisms to reduce re-offending will ensure that resources are allocated in a more cost-effective way.

Departmental Drinking Water

Nick de Bois: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department spent on bottled water in the financial year 2009-10. [17543]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry's accounting records do not specifically record expenditure on bottled water. To identify relevant expenditure would require examination of thousands of individual invoices, many held locally within the courts, prison and probation systems, and would incur disproportionate cost. It has, however, been possible to identify expenditure on bottled water within the Ministry's headquarters function. The amount for the 2009-10 financial year being £1,407.

The expenditure relates to bottled water used for water coolers and dispensers. The cost includes sanitisation and maintenance of these devices. Water dispensers are gradually being replaced by mains-fed water filtration systems across the Ministry's estate. The Ministry no longer provides bottled water when catering for meetings or events within its headquarters buildings.

Legal Aid: Washington: Tyne and Wear

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many family legal practices in Washington and Sunderland West constituency providing legal aid services will not be eligible to do so following the recent Legal Services Commission tendering round. [17834]

Mr Djanogly: Following the quashing order issued by the High Court in respect of the tender for family services, the Legal Services Commission is currently considering the detail of the judgment and its implications, including its grounds for appeal. Therefore, details of awards for family legal aid are not currently available.

Probation Service

Richard Harrington: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will take steps to end targets for the Probation Service for the purpose of increasing the efficiency of that service. [18082]

Mr Blunt: The Government believe that the culture of top-down target setting has got out of hand. We are taking steps to reduce the burden of bureaucracy and enable the probation service to focus on what really makes a difference in cutting reoffending. We will reward the achievement of results.

We are already piloting ways in which probation professionals can be allowed to exercise their judgment and be freed from excessive prescription from the centre.

In parallel we are trialling a scaled-down Probation Trust Rating System with fewer indicators and a greater emphasis on outcomes rather than inputs and processes.

We will be consulting on a new approach to rehabilitation and sentencing, including proposals to introduce payment by results, in a Green Paper to be published before Christmas. This consultation will help inform the design of a replacement assessment model for the probation service for 2011-12.

Rape: Criminal Proceedings

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what information he holds on the average time taken between charges being brought and a rape case coming to trial in the latest period for which figures are available. [17535]

Mr Djanogly: The estimated average time taken from charge (or laying of information) to completion of sexual offence cases in the magistrates courts was 50 days. This information is based on the latest Time Interval Surveys for March and June 2010. Information is not available for rape cases specifically.

In the second quarter of 2010, the average time taken from receipt in the Crown Court to the first substantive hearing, in cases, where there was a trial, was 14 days for rape or attempted rape cases. This information is based on the Crown Court administrative data and is not directly comparable with the estimates derived from the Time Intervals Survey for the magistrates courts. Therefore, these statistics cannot be combined to provide a timeliness estimate from charge to the date of trial in the Crown Court.

The Ministry of Justice is currently running a project to link magistrates courts and Crown Court administrative data together to develop a better understanding of case progression through the Criminal Justice system.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Apprentices: Witham

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what incentives his Department has put in place to encourage small businesses in Witham constituency to offer apprenticeships. [17408]

Mr Hayes: We are determined to make it easier for companies of all sizes to take on apprentices so that more businesses can access the tremendous benefits they can bring. That is why we are redirecting £150 million of Train to Gain in 2010-11 to create an additional 50,000 high quality employer-led places. The Skills Funding Agency work with the National Apprenticeships Service, employers, colleges and training organisations in Witham to make additional apprenticeship places available where there is local demand. SMEs are a priority but there is also a need to support large employers who are prepared to recruit and train apprentices.

I am pleased to report that Essex county council is working with the National Apprenticeship Service on an Apprenticeship Training Agency pilot which is testing out a new way to make it easier for small businesses to take on apprentices in the area and has already created over 100 new apprenticeship places.

Arms Trade: Exports

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much the Government have spent on arms exports in each of the last five years; and how much has been spent in each such year on *(a)* research and development funding, *(b)* export promotion assistance through UK Trade and Investment and *(c)* support through the Export Credits Guarantee Department. [17077]

Mr Prisk: All research and development spending by the Ministry of Defence (MOD) relates to the UK's own requirements, with none dedicated to defence exports.

Government expenditure on supporting defence companies seeking to export was delivered by the Defence Export Services Organisation (DESO) of the Ministry of Defence until 31 March 2008, and thereafter by UK Trade and Investment Defence and Security Organisation (UKTI DSO). The net operational cost of UKTI DSO in the last two financial years is as follows:

	£ million
2008-09	14.6
2009-10	15.8

Note: Figures prior to 2008-09 are not available on a comparable basis.

The Export Credits Guarantee Department has supported defence exports involving a maximum potential liability in each of the last five financial years as follows:

	£ million
2005-06	522
2006-07	750
2007-08	1,026.3
2008-09	12.5
2009-10	11.6

Business Link

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many small and medium-sized enterprises used the Business Link service in financial year *(a)* 2006-07, *(b)* 2007-08, *(c)* 2008-09 and *(d)* 2009-10. [17739]

Mr Prisk: The Business Link regional advisory service, as contracted by the Regional Development Agencies, records the number of unique SME service users in each financial year. The following are the number of start-up and established business service users (excluding pre-starts) in each of the requested financial years:

Business Users	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Start-ups trading < 12 months	46,093	52,178	54,806	58,662
Established	564,241	537,901	678,916	698,246

The centrally operated Business Link national website is managed by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC). Any questions relating to usage of the website should be submitted to HMRC.

Direct Selling

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the merits of requiring organisations not to withhold their number when undertaking telephone marketing. [17666]

Mr Prisk: No assessment has been made by the Department as this is the responsibility of Ofcom. Under the Communications Act 2003, Ofcom's guidelines require organisations which undertake telephone marketing using automated calling systems to ensure, amongst other things, for valid and accurate Call Line Identification (CLI) to be provided in order that consumers can determine who called in the event of a silent call, by dialling 1471. Ofcom can take enforcement action against those organisations that persistently misuse networks or services in this way which causes, or is likely to cause, unnecessary annoyance, inconvenience or anxiety. Ofcom published a revised statement of policy, on 10 September 2008, which includes examples of behaviour which may lead them to take enforcement action and have an ongoing enforcement programme.

http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/consultations/persistent_misuse/amendment/

EU Grants and Loans

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent representations he has received on the implications for the distribution of European Union funds of replacing regional development agencies. [17564]

Mr Prisk: BIS has received a number of representations on the implications of the abolition of the regional development agencies on the distribution of European Regional Development Funding, these include three parliamentary questions on ERDF funding in Blackpool; and correspondence relating to convergence funding in Cornwall.

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what mechanisms he plans to adopt to ensure that remaining unspent funds allocated to regions of England under the European Regional Development Fund for 2007 to 2013 are *(a)* claimed and *(b)* allocated. [17693]

Robert Neill: I have been asked to reply.

As managing authority for English 2007-13 ERDF programmes, my Department closely monitors the progress of these programmes against spend targets and will take any necessary steps to ensure that the remaining unspent funds are allocated and claimed.

Further Education: Finance

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions *(a)* he had with the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and *(b)* further education colleges or their representative organisations had with the ONS before its decision to reclassify general further education as part of central Government for accounting and borrowing purposes. [18244]

Mr Hayes: There were no discussions between the ONS and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills or representative organisations prior to notification of its decision. The ONS is an independent body which classifies organisations as public or private sector bodies for the purposes of compiling National Accounts according to international and EU agreed guidelines. The ONS' decisions are based on objective consideration of the facts and it is the final arbiter of classification decisions for the purpose of National Accounts.

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the likely effect on the borrowing ability of general further education colleges of the reclassification of such colleges as part of central Government. [18245]

Mr Hayes: The reclassification will mean that colleges are treated differently for National Accounts purposes. This change is not expected to make any difference to the financial arrangements of further education colleges for the remainder of this financial year (2010-11). We are in discussion with HM Treasury to agree how the changes will work in future years but it does not automatically follow that further education colleges should adopt the same control systems as central Government. The reclassification does not in itself limit their ability to borrow money.

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the likely effect on general further education colleges of the reclassification of them as part of central Government in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* subsequent years. [18246]

Mr Hayes: The reclassification will mean that colleges are treated differently for National Accounts purposes. There may be some changes to the way financial information from colleges is collected and monitored. However, the change is not expected to make any difference to current accounting practice, standards or financial arrangements for the remainder of this financial year (2010-11). The reclassification does not automatically mean that colleges should adopt the same accounting, budgeting and control systems as central Government. The Department is taking forward urgent work with HM Treasury to agree how the changes will work in practice for the future, seeking to minimise burdens wherever possible. We will fully engage representatives from the sector in these discussions.

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will take steps to assist further education colleges whose borrowing ability is affected by their reclassification as part of central Government. [18247]

Mr Hayes: The reclassification does not in itself limit the ability of further education colleges to borrow money. It does not automatically mean that they should adopt the same accounting, budgeting and control systems as central Government. The Department is considering how the changes will work in practice for the future, seeking to minimise burdens wherever possible. We will fully engage representatives from the sector in these discussions.

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the monetary value of loans taken out by general further education colleges in 2010-11; and if he will estimate the level of borrowing by those colleges affected by the decision to reclassify them as part of central Government for accounting purposes in each of the next three years. [18248]

Mr Hayes: Information held by the Skills Funding Agency estimates new long term loans taken out by further education colleges in the academic year 2010/11 at £445 million; 2011/12 at £125 million; and 2012/13 at £8 million. Overall borrowing is expected to return to its current value of £1.3 billion at July 2010 by July 2013. College financial forecasts do not project beyond this date.

This information relates to 249 of the 251 further education colleges incorporated under the Further and Higher Education Act 1992 for which the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills is responsible. Hilderstone College and The Co-operative College do not receive funds from the Skills Funding Agency and are not required to provide it with financial returns.

Further Education: Non-departmental Public Bodies

Bob Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has to reduce the number of non-departmental public bodies involved in the further education sector. [17562]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 18 October 2010]:* I am replying to this question as Minister responsible for the further education sector. As part of our radical steps to reform the network of bodies sponsored by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, we are planning to significantly reduce the non-departmental public bodies involved in the further education sector.

The UK Commission for Employment and Skills, providing high level employer engagement and sectoral reach, is under consideration. A review will be completed by the end of the year of core functions and the most appropriate organisational model to deliver a simplified skills landscape across the UK.

A range of other bodies are being abolished, merged, or are becoming part of the further education sector. In addition, as with the three industry training bodies, we are exploring the scope for a statutory levy to be operated by a private sector organisation.

The Department for Education is responsible for funding 16 to 18 education; a lot of which is delivered by the further education sector. The DfE has confirmed that the Young People's Learning Agency which funds young people's participation in education and training is under departmental review as part of the wider work on education structural reforms.

In addition the DfE has, in line with plans to improve accountability, transparency and efficiency, announced proposals to close the British Educational Communications and Technology Agency and the Qualification and Curriculum Development Agency.

Higher Education: Ethnic Groups

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his most recent estimate is of the proportion of school leavers from ethnic minority groups entering higher education. [17774]

Mr Willetts: 44% of English maintained-school pupils from ethnic minority groups, who were aged 15 in the 2003/04 academic year, progressed to higher education by age 19 in 2007/08. This figure is the latest available estimate based on matched data from the National Pupil Database, the Higher Education Statistics Agency Student Record and the Learning and Skills Council Individualised Learner Record. Progression rates to higher education for ethnic minority groups are shown in the following table.

Estimates of the proportions of English maintained-school pupils from ethnic minority groups[1] aged 15 in 2003/04 who progressed to higher education[2] by age 19 in 2007/08

Ethnic group	*Progression rate (percentage)*
All ethnic minorities	44
Black[3]	35
Asian[4]	52
Mixed[5]	33
Other[6]	42

[1] Ethnic minority groups include pupils whose ethnicity was classified as Black, Asian, Mixed or Other.

[2] Covers UK higher education institutions and English further education colleges.

[3] Includes African, Caribbean and other Black backgrounds.

[4] Includes Bangladeshi, Chinese, Indian, Pakistani and other Asian backgrounds.

[5] Includes White and Asian, White and Black African, White and Black Caribbean and other mixed backgrounds.

[6] Includes Romany Gypsy and other backgrounds.

Note:

Percentages are based on pupils with known ethnicity and exclude those pupils whose ethnicity information was classified as unknown, refused or missing.

Source:

Matched data from the National Pupil Database, the Higher Education Statistics Agency Student Record and the Learning and Skills Council Individualised Learner Record.

Higher Education: Finance

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he had with *(a)* the Secretary of State for Scotland, *(b)* the Scottish Executive and *(c)* Universities Scotland on the Browne Review of higher education funding and student finance before the publication of the report of that review. [18083]

Mr Willetts: Since taking office my ministerial colleagues and I have had discussions with the Secretary of State for Scotland and the Scottish Executive on a variety of subjects. Higher education is a devolved matter and I have not met with Universities Scotland. Lord Browne and his team took their own decisions about the wide discussions they had with interested parties prior to the publication of their independent review.

Local Enterprise Partnerships

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has *(a)* estimated the optimal geographic area to be covered by a local enterprise partnership (LEP), *(b)* estimated the optimal (i) population and (ii) gross domestic product of an area to be covered by an LEP and *(c)* estimated the optimal number of LEPs to be established. [17946]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 18 October 2010]:* The development of local enterprise partnerships is a bottom up process. We have made no judgements regarding the optimal geography, population or gross domestic product of a LEP nor made an estimate on the optimal number of LEPs to be established. We wish to enable partnerships to better reflect the natural economic geography of the areas they serve and hence to cover real functional economic and travel to work areas. In addition, we would expect that partnerships to be of sufficient size to be able to have a strategic oversight of the area covered.

Midwives: Training

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students were enrolled on each midwifery course at each higher education institution in the latest period for which figures are available. [17592]

Mr Willetts: The latest information from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) is shown in the table. These figures cover the total number of midwifery enrolments at each UK higher education institution. Each institution may run more than one course; however HESA data do not allow identification of enrolments at course level. Figures for the 2009/10 academic year will be available in January 2011.

Midwifery enrolments[1] by higher education institution UK higher education institutions academic year 2008/09

Higher education institution	*Midwifery enrolments*
Open University	0
Cranfield University	0
Royal College of Art	0
Bishop Grosseteste University College Lincoln	0
Buckinghamshire New University	0
Central School of Speech and Drama	0
University of Chester	120
Canterbury Christ Church University	210
York St John University	0
University College Plymouth St Mark and St John	0
Edge Hill University	60
University College Falmouth	0
Harper Adams University College	0
University of Winchester	0
Liverpool Hope University	0
University of the Arts, London	0
University of Bedfordshire	1,135
University of Northampton	110
Newman University College	0
Ravensbourne College of Design and Communication	0
Roehampton University	0
Rose Bruford College	0
Royal Academy of Music	0
Royal College of Music	0
Royal Northern College of Music	0
Southampton Solent University	0
University of Cumbria	25
St Marys University College, Twickenham	0
Leeds Trinity University College	0
Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance	0
University of Worcester	105
Anglia Ruskin University	255
Bath Spa University	0
University of Bolton	0
Bournemouth University	465
University of Brighton	95
Birmingham City University	240
University of Central Lancashire	425
University of Gloucestershire	0
Coventry University	80
University of Derby	0
University of East London	0
University of Greenwich	150
University of Hertfordshire	235
University of Huddersfield	60
University of Lincoln	0
Kingston University	205
Leeds Metropolitan University	0
Liverpool John Moores University	55
The Manchester Metropolitan University	0
Middlesex University	420
De Montfort University	150
University of Northumbria at Newcastle	150
The Nottingham Trent University	0
Oxford Brookes University	60
University of Plymouth	105
University of Portsmouth	0
Sheffield Hallam University	90
London South Bank University	90
Staffordshire University	45
University of Sunderland	0
University of Teesside	120
Thames Valley University	445
University of the West of England, Bristol	205
University of Chichester	0
University of Westminster	0
University of Wolverhampton	145
University of Wales, Newport	0
Glyndwr University	0
University of Wales Institute, Cardiff	0
University of Glamorgan	60
Swansea Metropolitan University	0
Trinity University College	0

Midwifery enrolments[1] by higher education institution—UK higher education institutions academic year 2008/09

Higher education institution	Midwifery enrolments
University of Abertay Dundee	0
Edinburgh College of Art	0
Glasgow School of Art	0
Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh	0
The Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama	0
The Robert Gordon University	90
University of the West of Scotland	235
Glasgow Caledonian University	160
Edinburgh Napier University	115
Aston University	0
University of Bath	0
University of Birmingham	0
University of Bradford	195
University of Bristol	0
Brunei University	0
University of Cambridge	0
The City University	220
University of Durham	0
University of East Anglia	105
University of Essex	0
University of Exeter	0
University of Hull	75
University of Keele	80
University of Kent	0
University of Lancaster	0
University of Leeds	125
University of Leicester	0
University of Liverpool	0
Birkbeck College	0
Goldsmiths College	0
Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine	0
Institute of Education	0
Kings College London	170
London Business School	0
London School of Economics and Political	0
London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine	0
Queen Mary and Westfield College	0
Royal Holloway and Bedford New College	0
The Royal Veterinary College	0
St Georges Hospital Medical School	0
The School of Oriental and African Studies	0
The School of Pharmacy	0
University College London	0
University of London (Institutes and activities)	0
Loughborough University	0
University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne	0
University of Nottingham	235
University of Oxford	0
University of Reading	0
University of Salford	275
University of Sheffield	55
University of Southampton	85
University of Surrey	210
University of Sussex	0
University of Warwick	0
University of York	35
University of Edinburgh	0
University of Glasgow	0
University of Strathclyde	0
University of Aberdeen	0
Heriot-Watt University	0
University of Dundee	85
University of St Andrews	0
University of Stirling	90
Scottish Agricultural College	0
University of Wales, Lampeter	0
Aberystwyth University	0
Bangor University	45
Cardiff University	100
Swansea University	65
The Queens University of Belfast	165
University of Ulster	0
The Institute of Cancer Research	0
Writtle College	0
Norwich University College of the Arts	0
Stranmillis University College	0
St Marys University College	0
Royal Agricultural College	0
UHI Millennium Institute	0
Arts University College at Bournemouth	0
Conservatoire for Dance and Drama	0
University College Birmingham	0
Courtauld Institute of Art	0
London Metropolitan University	0
University of Buckingham	0
University of Manchester	205
Heythrop College	0
University for the Creative Arts	0
Leeds College of Music	0
Guildhall School of Music and Drama	0
The Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts	0
University Campus Suffolk	55
Total	9,410

[1] Covers enrolments of all domiciles, levels and modes of study.

Note:

Figures are based on a HESA standard registration population and have been rounded to the nearest five.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

One NorthEast

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will ensure that the *(a)* assets and *(b)* income from assets held by the North East Regional Development Agency remain in the North East. [17520]

Mr Prisk: This Department is currently working with One NorthEast to gather a full picture of all their assets and liabilities. No decisions have yet been made on the future of these assets. Government's aim is to use funding for economic development as effectively as possible and to target resources where they are most needed. Consideration will be given to options for disposal, transfer, or retention of these assets, consistent with the Government's commitment to localism.

Public Houses: Rural Areas

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what information his Department holds on the proportion of those pubs in rural areas which have closed in the last 12 months which were located in areas where affordable housing developments are planned. [17696]

Mr Davey: None.

Regional Growth Fund

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what criteria his Department plans to use to determine the outcome of applications to the Regional Growth Fund. [17525]

Mr Prisk: The Government's consultation on the Regional Growth Fund sought views on the proposed criteria against which applications for the fund could be judged. The consultation closed on 6 September and the responses received are now being considered with a view to publishing further information on the design and implementation of the Regional Growth Fund as part of the White Paper on sub-national growth, expected later in the autumn.

Research: Standards

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he made of the effectiveness of the Research Assessment Exercise in evaluating the quality of research undertaken by higher education institutions. [16639]

Mr Willetts: The Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) rates the quality of research in higher education institutions in the UK. The Department for Business Innovation and Skills has not assessed the RAE process. Instead, the UK Higher Education funding bodies invited Sir Gareth Roberts to lead an independent review of research assessment in 2002. The review made recommendations which were incorporated into RAE 2008. The results of the review are available at:

http://www.ra-review.ac.uk/reports/roberts.asp

Skilled Workers: Construction

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the Construction Skills Certification Scheme on the comprehensive spending review; [17557]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the construction industry on the future of the Construction Skills Certification Scheme smart cards. [17558]

Mr Prisk: None.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has to provide support for the construction industry. [17560]

Mr Prisk: The Government's priority is to address the budget deficit and the challenge of creating growth across the economy, in order to create conditions where investment in construction can start to grow, and more jobs can be created. For example, the Government are supporting the construction sector through the ongoing work of the chief construction adviser, Paul Morrell, who is leading the Low Carbon Construction Innovation and Growth Team, which is reviewing opportunities for the construction industry in a low carbon economy.

Student Loans Company

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the monetary value was of loans made by the Student Loans Company in each of the last five years; and what he expects the monetary value to be of loans made in each of the next five years. [18250]

Mr Willetts: The information is as follows:

Student loans issued by financial year[1]

Financial year	*Amount (£ million)*
2005-06	2,465.0
2006-07	2,954.1
2007-08	3,905.0
2008-09	4,204.1
2009-10 (provisional)	5,049.1

[1] The table covers English domiciled students studying in the UK and EU students studying in England. *Source:* Student Loans Company.

The introduction of tuition fee loans in academic year 2006/07 has contributed to the increase in loans made.

Data for 2010-11 out-turn are not yet available. Expenditure for 2011-12 and future years will depend on the outcome of the spending review which will be announced on 20 October and on the response to the Browne review of higher education funding and student finance. This is a substantial report and we shall consult further on some of the more detailed proposals before making specific recommendations to Parliament, with a view to implementing the changes for student entering higher education in autumn 2012.

Students: Loans

Sir Alan Beith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of people who took out student loans between 1998 and 2009 who will not have repaid the loan in full *(a)* 25 years after such loans were taken out and *(b)* at the age of 65 years. [17747]

Mr Willetts: Student loans issued to students who entered Higher Education in Academic Year 1998/99 onwards were issued under the Income Contingent Repayment (ICR) scheme. Loans can be cancelled if the borrower dies or receives a disability related benefit and because of the disability is permanently unfit for work. They can also be cancelled on age grounds—at age 65 for entrants pre-2006/07 and after 25 years for entrants from 2006/07 onwards.

At the end of April 2010 there were 2.985 million borrowers either English domiciled studying in the UK or EU domiciled studying in England. Of these 0.238 million had repaid their loans in full and 7,000 had their outstanding sum cancelled.

Of the remaining 2.741 million borrowers we estimate that around 8% will have their outstanding sum cancelled after 25 years or at age 65 and 3% will have their outstanding sum cancelled because of death or permanent disability. We estimate that the remaining 89% of borrowers will fully repay.

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the average debt repayment by graduates to the Student Loans Company in each financial year since 1998 for which figures are available. [17758]

Mr Willetts: The answer covers English domiciled borrowers who studied in the UK and EU students who studied in England. It excludes Welsh, Northern Irish and Scottish domiciled students.

Average amount repaid by Income Contingent student loan borrowers making repayments via HMRC[1]

Tax year	*Average repayment*
2000/01	330
2001/02	420
2002/03	420
2003/04	480
2004/05	590
2005/06[2]	500
2006/07	610
2007/08	720
2008/09	790

[1] The table covers borrowers who received loans as English domiciled students studying in the UK or as EU students studying in England. It relates to repayments made via HMRC as known by SLC at 30 April 2010. Repayments not yet reported to SLC and repayments made directly to SLC will not be included.

[2] The repayments threshold was raised from £10,000 to £15,000 at the start of tax year 2005/06, which caused the average repayment to fall.

Source:

Student Loans Company

Income Contingent loans were introduced in 1998 and the first repayments were made in 2000/01, therefore consistent data before 2000/01 are not available. The figures are taken from the publication Income Contingent Repayment by Repayment Cohort and Tax Year, available from the Student Loans Company website at:

www.slc.co.uk/pdf/SLCOSP032010.pdf

Note that figures cover student loan borrowers regardless of whether they are graduates or not. Figures show averages for those making repayments; borrowers earning below £15,000 per year are not required to repay.

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent estimate he has made of the likely percentage of graduates who will have paid off their debt from the Student Loans Company within 30 years. [17759]

Mr Willetts: Student loans issued to students who entered higher education in academic year 1998/99 onwards were issued under the Income Contingent Repayment (ICR) scheme. Loans can be cancelled if the borrower dies or receives a disability related benefit and because of the disability is permanently unfit for work. They can also be cancelled on age grounds—at age 65 for entrants pre-2006/07 and after 25 years for entrants from 2006/07 onwards.

We do not specifically estimate the percentage of graduates who will repay their loans within 30 years. However, at the end of April 2010 there were 2.985 million borrowers either English domiciled studying in the UK or EU domiciled studying in England. Of these 0.238 million had repaid their loans in full and 7,000 had their outstanding sum cancelled.

Of the remaining 2.741 million borrowers we estimate that around 8% will have their outstanding sum cancelled after 25 years or at age 65 and 3% will have their outstanding sum cancelled because of death or permanent disability. We estimate that the remaining 89% of borrowers will fully repay.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 20 October 2010

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Brazil: Foreign Relations

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the Government's bilateral defence co-operation agreement with Brazil; and if he will make a statement. [18014]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The UK-Brazil Defence Cooperation Agreement was signed by both countries in Rio de Janeiro on 14 September 2010. The Agreement will be published as a Command Paper and copies will be placed in the House of Commons, House of Lords and Votes Library when the administrative processes have been completed by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Ministry of Defence. We expect this to be by the end of this year. A statement announcing the signing of the Agreement was published on the Ministry of Defence website on 14 September.

Burma: Politics and Government

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the *(a)* leadership and *(b)* political objectives of the Burmese government. [17884]

Mr Jeremy Browne: Burma is a military dictatorship. Power is controlled by Senior General Than Shwe. He has presided over a wide range of human rights abuses and political prisoners have increased under his leadership. He is the architect of the regime's so-called 'roadmap to a disciplined democracy', including elections scheduled for 7 November. These elections are designed to perpetuate military rule. The Government are clear that they will not be free and fair and lack international credibility.

China: Human Rights

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the government of China to release from custody the Nobel Peace Laureate, Liu Xiaobo. [18202]

Mr Hague: The decision to award the Nobel Peace Prize to Liu Xiaobo shines a spotlight on the situation of human rights defenders worldwide. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister and the Government as a whole are committed to freedom of expression in all countries. It was for that reason that I raised the case of Liu Xiaobo, the Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, during my visit to China in July this year and we will continue to urge the Chinese Government to release Mr Liu.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on hospitality for events hosted by each Minister in the Department in each of the last three years. [13478]

Alistair Burt: The information is not held in the form requested. Total spend on official hospitality by Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers in each year was:

£

FY	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Foreign Secretary	44,856	43,824	43,421
Other Ministers	16,175	10,459	16,479
Total	61,031	54,283	59,900

Activities funded include working meetings with Ministers in the UK, meetings with senior political and military figures from countries, and events hosted for political and business delegations (including those in support of UK Trade and Industry). Any expenditure on official hospitality is kept under rigorous scrutiny to ensure value for money and effectiveness and is incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity, Propriety and Value for Money.

Departmental Work Experience

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many interns his Department has engaged in the last 12 months; and how many were *(a)* unpaid, *(b)* remunerated with expenses only and *(c)* paid a salary. [17203]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office engaged 86 interns over the last 12 months on eight internship schemes.

Graduate Talent Pool (30)—a Government-wide internship scheme for unemployed graduates. It was used to fill gaps at Band A before the new intake of administrative staff started work. Interns were taken on for a minimum period of three months.

Partner University Placement Scheme (34)—the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's diversity outreach programme targeting under represented groups. 19 interns were taken on for a two-week period in 2010 and will return next summer to complete their placement for another two weeks. The remaining 15 were returning interns from the 2009 scheme.

Cabinet Office Summer Placement Scheme (10)—a Government-wide diversity outreach programme. Five disabled and five ethnic minority interns were taken on for a period of six to nine weeks.

Economic Sandwich Placement Scheme and Economist Interns (7)

Legal Library Graduate Trainee (1)

Foreign Policy Internship Scheme (3)

They worked in various roles spread across the office's 3,000 strong London work force. All the interns were paid a salary.

The number of interns joining the office will likely be reduced in 2011 and each scheme scrutinised to ensure it is needed.

UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department has taken to ensure its activities are compliant with the provisions of Article 32 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on international co-operation. [17885]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is committed to promoting and protecting human rights for all people without discrimination on any grounds. We strongly support the rights of disabled people as set out in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and play an active role in our international work by encouraging governments to sign, ratify and implement the Convention. In support of this we are currently funding a project in Europe to develop practical guidelines and checklists to assist governments and non-governmental organisations on the implementation and monitoring of the Convention. In India we are funding a project which promotes implementation of the Convention through the integration of disability into health, employment, information technology and rural development policies.

At the UN, we continue to play a leading role in advancing disability rights, including through our membership of the Human Rights Council and our support to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, which is currently preparing a study on the role of international co-operation to promote implementation of the Convention.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Affordable Housing: East of England

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will place in the Library a copy of the representations *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Homes and Communities Agency has received on the 2010-11 National Affordable Housing Programme in respect of the East of England since 6 May 2010. [17942]

Andrew Stunell: Both the Department and the Homes and Communities Agency receive a wide range of representations including correspondence and meetings from many and varied organisations as well as individuals. Given the breadth and volume we are unable to deposit this information within the Library of the House without incurring disproportionate cost.

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which bodies had been allocated funding under the Homes and Communities Agency's continuous market engagement scheme in the East of England as at 30 September 2010; and if he will make a statement. [17943]

Andrew Stunell: The following list shows the providers which have been allocated funding through the Homes and Communities Agency's National Affordable Housing Programme continuous market engagement process from September 2008 to September 2010 in the East of England.

Lead Partner Organisation Name

Hastoe Housing Association Limited
Orwell Housing Association Limited
Housing 21
Hanover Housing Association
Jephson Homes Housing Association Limited
Sanctuary Housing Association
Moat Homes Limited
Octavia Housing
Metropolitan Housing Trust Limited
Hightown Praetorian and Churches Housing Association
Home Group Limited
Estuary Housing Association Limited
English Rural Housing Association Limited
Flagship Housing Group Limited
Orbit Housing Group Limited
Swan Housing Association Limited
Paradigm Housing Group Limited
Places for People Group Limited
Longhurst Group Limited
Catalyst Housing Group Limited
Network Housing Group Limited
Family Mosaic Housing
Paddington Churches Housing Association Limited
Hyde Housing Association Limited
The Guinness Trust
Aldwyck Housing Association Limited
Ability Housing Association
Bedfordshire Pilgrims Housing Association Limited
Circle Anglia Limited
Affinity Sutton Group Limited
East Thames Group Limited
Accent Corporate Services Limited
Persimmon Homes Ltd
Bellway plc
Bloor Holding Limited
Bovis Homes Group plc
Crest Nicholson Operations Ltd
Miller Homes Ltd
Taylor Wimpey UK Ltd
Galliford Try plc
Logic Homes Ltd
Barratt Developments plc
Larkfleet Homes
Morris Homes
Badger Building (E. Anglia) Ltd
Broadgate Homes
Explore Living
Lagan Homes Ltd
Redrow Regeneration plc
Kier Homes Limited
JS Bloor (Sudbury) Ltd
JS Bloor (Northampton) Limited

Employment: Homelessness

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his Department's policy is on deeming intentionally homeless a worker in receipt of social housing who decides to move to a different local authority area in search of work. [18041]

Grant Shapps *[holding answer 19 October 2010]:* The Government are committed to improving current rates of mobility and giving social tenants more control over where they live. We have pledged to introduce a national social home swap programme to make it easier for social tenants to move to another home or another part of the country. The new scheme will increase opportunities to move by allowing tenants to easily see details of every other tenant looking to exchange their home.

The homelessness legislation provides an important safety net for people who become homeless through no fault of their own but is not intended to facilitate mobility among tenants in social housing. The definition of intentional homelessness is set out in primary legislation, and in any particular case it is for the local housing authority to decide whether an applicant has made himself intentionally homeless. Where a person has given up his home in order to move to another area to look for work and not made arrangements for alternative accommodation (and there was no other reason for leaving the home), it is likely that a local housing authority would consider that he had made himself homeless intentionally.

Homes and Communities Agency: East of England

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many sites the Homes and Communities Agency owns in *(a)* Peterborough and *(b)* the East of England; what the area is of each such site; in respect of how many such sites has permission to develop been granted; and what estimate has been made of the number of homes to be built on each such site. [17853]

Andrew Stunell: To offer full transparency a complete copy of this information has been placed in the Library of the House, in the form of (i) a list recording 334 development sites owned by the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA), including the area of each site, in the East of England by local authority including Peterborough (ii) a separate list recording planning consent status in 300 cases regarding HCA sites in the East of England, by local authority including Peterborough, showing also the number of housing units planned to be built on each site where this is known or recorded.

These two lists are drawn from internal management systems maintained by the HCA for its own working purposes. HCA's financial system maintains a comprehensive record of all its development assets. As a subset of this, HCA also maintains a separate record of any planning-related activity on this land. These two lists represent raw management data. To reconcile this into a single list could be done only at disproportionate cost.

In addition HCA holds a number of residual sites not suitable for housing development.

Housing: Construction

Mr Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will take steps to increase the level of new house building. [18104]

Andrew Stunell: The Government are committed to increasing housing supply from current levels.

The previous Government's model of top-down housing targets failed to deliver: in 2009 just 118,000 completions were achieved, the lowest level of house building in England since the Second World War. On 6 July we revoked Regional Spatial Strategies and regional housing targets and passed power back to local communities. Instead of going against the grain of local opinion and creating opposition to imposed new housing, we will increase housing supply by introducing powerful fiscal incentives so that communities benefit directly from housing growth. We are confident that our approach to housing, which rebalances power from central Government to local authorities and local people, and combines this with powerful incentives for local authorities, will deliver the housing that communities want and need. We will set out further details on the timetable for introducing incentives in due course.

We will also seek to reduce the burden of unnecessary regulation on homebuilders in order to reduce costs and boost private sector investment. Further details will be announced in due course.

Housing: East of England

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many *(a)* flats and *(b)* houses were built in (i) Peterborough and (ii) the East of England in each of the last five years; and how many such properties of each type were built in the social sector; [17848]

(2) how many homes with *(a)* one, *(b)* two, *(c)* three and *(d)* four or more bedrooms were built in (i) Peterborough and (ii) the East of England in each of the last five years; and how many such homes of each such type were built in the social sector. [17849]

Andrew Stunell: The number of new build homes completed in Peterborough and the East of England in each of the last five years are shown in the following tables. Estimates of the proportions that were flats and houses, and the estimated split by number of bedrooms, are also shown for the East of England but this source does not provide such estimates below the regional level.

Total new build completions, Peterborough UA

Financial year	*Number*
2005-06	880
2006-07	1,210
2007-08	930
2008-09	680
2009-10	970

New build completions, East of England

Financial year	*Total (number)*	*Of which*					
		Flats	*Houses*	*1 bedroom*	*2 bedroom*	*3 bedroom*	*4 bedroom*
2005-06	20,251	45	55	12	41	26	21
2006-07	22,559	46	54	12	42	25	21
2007-08	22,422	49	51	10	47	23	20
2008-09	17,916	46	54	14	45	23	19
2009-10	15,066	43	57	15	40	24	21

Source: National House-Building Council and P2 returns from local authorities.

Information for the social sector is provided in the following tables. This information is based on the number of social rent, intermediate rent and low-cost home ownership homes delivered through the National Affordable Housing Programme (NAHP). The breakdown by number of bedrooms and dwelling type is available only for supply recorded on the Housing and Communities Agency's Investment Management System which covers the large majority of supply of new affordable homes.

Not all affordable housing is provided through new build completions as supply can also come from the acquisition and refurbishment of private sector homes. For example, in the most recent period available for 2008-09, a total of 7,710 affordable homes were provided in the East of England of which 420 were in Peterborough.

The Department's 'Affordable Housing in England Statistical Release', containing information for 2009-10 will be published on 28 October.

New build affordable housing completions, East of England

	Number of bedrooms				
	1	*2*	*3*	*4*	*All*
2005-06	780	1,670	720	140	3,310
2006-07	960	2,070	810	160	4,010
2007-08	1,300	2,960	1,090	210	5,550
2008-09	1,370	2,430	1,000	250	5,050
2009-10	1,180	3,130	1,180	300	5,790

			Number
	Flat	*House*	*All*
2005-06	1,500	1,850	3,350
2006-07	2,060	1,970	4,030
2007-08	3,050	2,510	5,560
2008-09	2,860	2,200	5,060
2009-10	2,970	2,830	5,800

New build affordable housing completions, Peterborough UA

	Number of bedrooms				
	1	*2*	*3*	*4*	*All*
2005-06	10	50	20	0	80
2006-07	10	70	20	0	110
2007-08	20	190	30	30	270
2008-09	70	190	90	30	380
2009-10	70	380	200	60	700

			Number
	Flat	*House*	*All*
2005-06	30	50	80
2006-07	50	60	110
2007-08	150	110	270
2008-09	190	190	380
2009-10	170	530	700

Notes:

1. Totals are for NAHP only and include both social rent and low-cost home ownership completions.
2. Data exclude open market HomeBuy type products and bedsits.
3. The totals in the two East of England tables may not match as studio flats are deemed to have zero bedrooms.
4. Data are rounded to nearest 10 units.

Landlord and Tenant

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will review the effectiveness of options for redress available to landlords whose tenants do not uphold their contractual obligations. [17809]

Andrew Stunell: Overall, the current legislative framework delivers the right balance of rights and responsibilities between landlords and tenants and we have no plans to change it. The issue of housing benefit being paid directly to tenants is being looked at as part of the Department for Work and Pensions review of the first two years' operation of the Local Housing Allowance. The review is due to report by the end of the year.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agricultural Wages (England and Wales) Order 2010

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people were employed in each of the six grades set out in the Agricultural Wages (England and Wales) Order 2010 in each of the last five years. [18394]

Mr Paice: The following table shows the number of workers in England and Wales by Agricultural Wages Board (AWB) grade for the period 2005 to 2009. Please note that the number of workers by AWB grade for 2010 will not be available until the June Census labour figures for 2010 have been published in December.

					Thousand
	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Grade 1	19.9	27.8	22.4	23.6	28.1
Grade 2	90.8	85.5	76.0	76.0	66.4
Grade 3	1.6	3.6	7.1	9.1	9.8
Grade 4	21.2	15.6	17.6	22.4	22.3
Grade 5	4.3	2.7	6.6	6.4	9.8

Thousand

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Grade 6	2.0	0.8	2.8	1.8	3.8
All	139.8	136.0	132.5	139.2	140.3

Notes:
1. Salaried managers are not included.
2. June Survey information is based on data captured for 1 June of each year, whereas the Earnings and Hours Survey information is based on four quarterly surveys from January, March, June and September for the respective year.
3. These figures are based on a sample survey and are, therefore, subject to a degree of sampling error.

Source:
June Survey of Agriculture and Horticulture and DEFRA survey of Earning and Hours.

Please note that the figures provided, along with other related statistics, are available in the Farm Labour and Wage Statistics publications which can be found on the DEFRA website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/evidence/statistics/foodfarm/farmmanage/earninqshours/index.htm

Agricultural Wages Board

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to ensure that support for farm workers continues following the proposed abolition of the Agricultural Wages Board. [18936]

Mr Paice: Once the Agricultural Wages Board (AWB) is abolished, workers will continue to be protected by the national minimum wage legislation and Working Time Regulations, as are workers in all sectors of the economy.

In addition, any terms of an agricultural worker's employment contract which exist at the time the AWB is abolished will continue to apply until such time as the worker's contract is varied by agreement between the employer and the worker, or until the contract comes to an end. If an employer makes changes to the terms of employment without the agreement of the worker, this constitutes a breach of contract and the worker may have a claim for breach of contract.

Agricultural Wages Board

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she has commissioned an equality impact assessment of the implications for agricultural workers of the closure of the Agricultural Wages Board for England and Wales. [18185]

Mr Paice: An equality impact assessment on the implications for agricultural workers as a result of the closure of the Agricultural Wages Board for England and Wales has been commissioned. It will be published in due course.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what mechanisms will be in place for regulation and oversight of *(a)* rates of pay for overtime, *(b)* stand-by duty and night allowance, *(c)* entitlement to bereavement leave, *(d)* birth or adoption grant and *(e)* dog allowance for agricultural workers following the closure of the Agricultural Wages Board for England and Wales. [18186]

Mr Paice: Once the Agricultural Wages (AWB) Board is abolished, agricultural workers will no longer have a statutory right to the overtime rates of pay, on-call allowance (formerly stand-by duty), night allowance, dog allowance, birth/adoption grant, and entitlement to bereavement leave currently set out in the Agricultural Wages Order. Instead, agricultural workers will be protected by the national minimum wage legislation and Working Time Regulations, as with workers in all other sectors of the economy.

However, any terms of an agricultural worker's employment contract which exist at the time the AWB is abolished, will continue to apply until such time as the worker's contract is varied by agreement between the employer and the worker, or until the contract comes to an end. This is the case whether the agreement is written, verbally agreed, or implied by custom and practice. If an employer makes changes to the terms of employment without the agreement of the worker, this constitutes a breach of contract and the worker may have a claim for breach of contract.

Agriculture: Summertime

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations she has received on the implications for farmers in the North of England of any change to British Summer Time; and if she will make a statement. [17580]

Mr Paice: We have received no recent representations on the implications for farmers in the North of England of a change in British summer time.

Badgers: Disease Control

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) if she will publish the evidence underpinning her decision to authorise a cull of badgers; and if she will make a statement; [18387]

(2) what factors she took into account in her decision to authorise a cull of badgers; and if she will make a statement. [18388]

Mr Paice: On 15 September, DEFRA launched a public consultation setting out the Government's approach to tackling bovine TB in England and a proposal to address the disease in badgers. Alongside the consultation document, we published the scientific evidence, veterinary assessments and impact assessment on which the Government's proposal is based. A decision on our approach will be taken following the consultation and I intend to publish a comprehensive and balanced bovine TB eradication programme early in 2011.

Dangerous Dogs

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she plans to publish her response to her Department's consultation on dangerous dogs. [17772]

Mr Paice: The recent public consultation exercise on dangerous dogs legislation received 4,250 responses. My ministerial colleague Lord Henley is currently considering the responses and we expect to make an announcement on our proposed way forward later in the autumn.

Food: Labelling

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she plans to bring forward proposals for food labelling guidelines requiring disclosure of slaughter methods for meat products. [18047]

Mr Paice: The European Parliament has suggested an amendment to the proposed EU food information regulations to require food labels to indicate whether an animal has been stunned before slaughter.

I appreciate that this is an issue which people feel strongly about and we will be working with interested groups to find a way to address their concerns. People should know what they are buying in shops and when they are eating out, and I will be discussing with the food industry whether labelling and point of sale information can play a greater role in giving consumers a choice.

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what regulations issued by her Department govern the *(a)* sale and *(b)* labelling of halal meat; and if she will make a statement. [18120]

Mr Paice: There are no specific regulations governing the sale and labelling of Halal meat. However, if meat is labelled as Halal, this must not mislead the consumer. Information provided on the label or in the presentation of a food must not be false or misleading under the Food Labelling Regulations 1996 (as amended), section 15 of the Food Safety Act 1990 (as amended), Article 16 of Regulation (EC) 178/2002 (General Food Law Regulation 2004) and the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008. Information provided or the overall presentation of a food must not deceive the average consumer such that the average consumer would make a purchasing decision that they would not have taken otherwise.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will assess the merits of bringing forward regulations to require halal slaughtered meat for sale to the public to be clearly labelled as such; and if she will make a statement. [18209]

Mr Paice: The European Parliament has suggested an amendment to the proposed EU Food information regulations to require food labels to indicate whether an animal has been stunned before slaughter.

I appreciate that this is an issue which people feel strongly about and we will be working with interested groups to find a way to address their concerns. People should know what they are buying in shops and when they are eating out, and I will be discussing with the food industry whether labelling and point of sale information can play a greater role in giving consumers a choice.

Forestry Commission

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the statement of 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 505-06, on public bodies reform, what consideration her Department gave to transferring the Forestry Commission to the private sector. [18176]

Mr Paice: Prior to the announcement from my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office (Mr Maude), on 14 October to retain and substantially reform the Forestry Commission, the Government considered a range options for the Forestry Commission. I will set out the Government's proposals later in the year.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she plans to bring forward proposals for the reform of the Forestry Commission; and which models of ownership for that organisation she plans to consider. [18182]

Mr Paice: The Forestry Commission and DEFRA will publish a consultation later in the year that will seek views on the implementation of a new strategic approach for forestry in England.

Livestock: Sustainable Development

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to increase the level of sustainable livestock farming in the UK; what recent discussions she has had on this subject at EU level; and if she will make a statement. [17658]

Mr Paice: The Government are committed to ensuring we have a thriving and sustainable livestock sector in the UK, and we are working with the industry on the challenges it faces. This includes Government support for the agricultural industry's Climate Change Task Force in delivering its commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and for the dairy, beef and sheep, and pork meat sectors in delivering their product roadmaps for environmental sustainability.

DEFRA supports research on livestock through our research programmes on sustainable farming and food and animal health and welfare.

Internationally, the Government holds regular discussions on sustainable farming and food at EU level, with other member states, and more widely through, for example, our membership of the Global Research Alliance on the mitigation of greenhouse gases. The Government's Foresight project examining how the international community can sustainably feed nine billion by 2050 is another example of this UK leadership.

Sustainable Development Commission: Wales

Mr David: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had with the Welsh Assembly Government on the work of the Sustainable Development Commission in Wales. [16862]

Mr Paice: The Secretary of State and the Welsh Assembly Government Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing discussed the work of the Sustainable Development Commission when they met at Environment Council on 13 October.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Intelligence Services: Northern Ireland

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which service has responsibility for *(a)* directing and *(b)* leading intelligence policy in Northern Ireland. [17808]

Mr Swire: The Security Service directs and co-ordinates all national security intelligence collection and investigation work across Northern Ireland. PSNI officers work in liaison with Security Service personnel, including for the purpose of translating intelligence into executive action. In all circumstances, including where the interest is national security-related, it is the role of the PSNI to mount executive policing operations, make arrests and take forward prosecutions under the direction of the Public Prosecution Service.

Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what funding he has allocated to the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission for *(a)* 2011-12 and *(b)* 2012-13; and if he will make a statement. [17807]

Mr Swire: Funding has not been set beyond the end of the current financial year. I expect that it will be set in the coming months, taking into account the implications of the spending review.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Alternative Vote: Referendums

Guto Bebb: To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission, what assessment the Electoral Commission has made of the level of funding required for a public information campaign in respect of the proposed referendum on the electoral system for the House of Commons on a day when national or local elections *(a)* are and *(b)* are not scheduled to take place. [17875]

Mr Streeter: The Electoral Commission informs me that it estimates that the expenditure for its planned public information campaign for the proposed referendum will be £6.83 million. This estimate is not affected by whether the referendum takes place on the same day as elections.

If the referendum takes place on 5 May 2011, as proposed, the public information campaign will include information on both the referendum and elections scheduled, at the cost stated above.

If the referendum did not take place on 5 May 2011, the Commission estimates an additional £2.928 million would be required for a separate campaign for the elections.

Electoral Systems

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission, what representations the Electoral Commission has received on the appropriateness of the involvement of its Chair in its preparations for the proposed referendum on the electoral system for the House of Commons. [17707]

Mr Streeter: The Electoral Commission informs me that it has received no such representations.

Local Government: Constituencies

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the honourable Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what proposals the Electoral Commission has made for ward boundary changes in Daventry district; what the timescale is for their implementation; and if he will make a statement. [17047]

Mr Streeter: The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) informs me, that at present, it has not made any proposals for ward boundary changes to Daventry district.

The LGBCE has set criteria to trigger a review if there is significant electoral inequality in all or part of a local authority area. The LGBCE commenced an electoral review of Daventry district on 20 July 2010 after it had identified that one ward, Abbey North, had 43% more electors than the average for the district as a whole. A draft Order, intended to implement the LGBCE's final recommendations, will provide for new electoral arrangements for the district council to be implemented at the local elections in 2012.

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the honourable Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what representations the Electoral Commission has received on the Daventry district boundary review. [17048]

Mr Streeter: The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) informs me that during the council size consultation period of the review it received 12 representations, all of which can be found on its website:

www.lgbce.org.uk

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the honourable Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission how much the Electoral Commission *(a)* has spent and *(b)* plans to spend on the review of electoral wards in Daventry district. [17189]

Mr Streeter: The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) informs me that to date it has spent £2633 in immediately attributable costs, and an estimated further £4000 in staffing and overheads, on the electoral review of Daventry district.

The LGBCE informs me that it cannot provide exact costs for future spending. The final costs depend on the geographical scale of the review area, its complexity, and the contribution made by the local authority to framing warding schemes. Costs can change if, for example, further consultation is required at any stage. The LGBCE seeks to discharge its statutory functions while keeping down its own and others' costs.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Emissions

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans he has for the future of the Low Carbon Communities Challenge Fund after 2010-11. [17714]

Gregory Barker: The Low Carbon Communities Challenge is a research programme, providing grant funding to communities over two financial years: 2009-10 and 2010-11.

Work evaluating and sharing learning from the community projects will continue beyond 2010-11, but there will be no further funding.

Departmental Equality

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans he has to publish equality impact assessments undertaken by his Department as part of the comprehensive spending review; and if he will make a statement. [18279]

Gregory Barker: Consultations on policy arising from the comprehensive spending review will be accompanied by published impact assessments comprising, where appropriate, equality impact assessments.

Departmental Visits Abroad

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department spent on overseas visits for senior officials in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [18413]

Gregory Barker: The Department of Energy and Climate Change has spent £1,525,024 on overseas visits for all officials during the period of 1 October 2009 to 30 September 2010.

The amount spent for senior officials can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Fuel Poverty: Dartford

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many households in Dartford constituency were in fuel poverty on the latest date for which figures are available. [18847]

Gregory Barker: The most recently available sub-regional split of fuel poverty relates to 2006, and shows that there were 2,800 households in the Dartford constituency that were classified as living in fuel poverty. This is equivalent to 7% of all households in the Dartford constituency.

Low Carbon Buildings Programme

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many Low Carbon Building Programme grants have been made in respect of wind turbines installed in locations which do not meet the wind speed criteria specified in the programme. [18122]

Gregory Barker: The Low Carbon Buildings programme (LCBP) did not have, as a primary validity criterion, a specified wind speed for the grant funding of wind turbines.

Every grant application to the LCBP was scrutinised before approval.

For all grants, regardless of technology, the overall criteria for acceptance was to meet benchmark £/tC02 savings. This indirectly assesses the system performance giving an indication of value for money and amount of C02 saved. There are some projects which are outside recommended benchmarks. However anyone exceeding the benchmark either had their grant capped, i.e. below 50% or they offered a valid explanation as to why it was still good VFM. For example schools might have opted to use a wind turbine to educate pupils.

Renewable Energy: Heating

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his most recent estimate is of the cost of abating each tonne of carbon dioxide under *(a)* the proposed Renewable Heat Incentive, *(b)* Feed-in Tariffs and *(c)* the Renewables Obligation. [17292]

Gregory Barker: The following table shows the latest estimates on the cost of abating each tonne of carbon dioxide under the three schemes:

Policy	*Costs effectiveness*
RHI (based on February 2010 RHI consultation publication)	Traded sector: £57/tC02 Non-traded sector: £75/tC02
FITs (based on impact assessment accompanying Government Response, February 2010)	Traded sector: £460/tC02
RO (based on analysis for Impact Assessment accompanying RO Order 2010)	Traded sector: £115/tC02

Notes:

1. RO and RHI cost effectiveness indicators are presented in 2009 prices. FiTs costs effectiveness is in 2008 prices.
2. For RHI the indicator covers the period 2010 to 2045. For RO and FiTs the period covered is 2010 to 2030.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Manpower

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he plans to take to minimise the loss of expertise in the armed forces resulting from a reduction in service personnel numbers in the next three years. [17806]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 18 October 2010]:* At the heart of the Strategic Defence and Security Review has been a thorough examination of our force structure, looking at the overall shape, size and role of the armed forces, the Ministry of Defence Civil Service as well as the reserve forces. This includes the implications on expertise of any redundancies which might result.

Armed Forces: Pay

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the future of the local overseas allowance; and if he will make a statement. [18241]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 19 October 2010]:* Within the Strategic Defence and Security Review it was agreed that the overall package of allowances needs to be made simpler to administer, more effective and encourage greater personal responsibility. While the current package will be reduced, no decisions have been taken on individual allowances.

Armed Forces: Pensions

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions the monetary value of pension awarded to the family of a serviceman or woman killed in action has related to a previous rank because their rank at the time of their death had been held for less than 12 months in the last five years. [17744]

Mr Robathan: Since 6 April 2005 there have been three instances of personnel killed in action when, at the time of their death, they had held an acting rank for less than 12 months, and where the pension awarded under the Armed Forces Pension Scheme 1975 was based upon their substantive rank.

We are considering options to improve the compensation and pension package for the dependants of personnel who are killed in an acting rank.

Armed Forces: Taxation

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what recent representations he has received on exempting the pay of armed forces personnel from tax during periods of service abroad; and if he will make a statement; [17796]

(2) when his Department last made an assessment of the merits of exempting from tax the pay of service personnel serving abroad; and what its findings were. [17797]

Mr Robathan: In the last year, the Ministry of Defence has received nine letters from Members of Parliament and the public about exempting the pay of armed forces personnel from tax during periods of service abroad.

There has been no recent assessment of the merits of exempting the pay of those serving overseas from income tax. It is a long-standing rule recognised by successive governments that the armed forces, like other Crown servants, are liable for the payment of income tax wherever they are serving. This is not considered inequitable as the UK armed forces have an expectation of worldwide service, which is reflected in their overall remuneration package, which includes, for example, the payment of the X-factor (currently 14%) in recognition of relative disadvantages on military life and payment to those experiencing an exceptional level of separation. In addition, to further recognise the sacrifices personnel make while deployed further allowances have also been introduced, and the operational allowance, which is itself exempt from tax, has been doubled.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the NATO STANAG 4569 Level 2A test reports on the RWMIK vehicle platform. [17526]

Peter Luff: I regret that I must withhold the information as its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Atomic Weapons Establishment: Finance

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the answer of 29 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 1118W, on AWE Aldermaston, how much his Department spent on capital expenditure for the two Atomic Weapons Establishment sites at Aldermaston and Burghfield in each financial year from 2000-01 to 2004-05. [17344]

Peter Luff: The capital expenditure figures for the two Atomic Weapons Establishment sites at Aldermaston and Burghfield are shown in the following table:

	Capital costs at outturn prices (£ million)
2000-01	21
2001-02	43
2002-03	45
2003-04	62
2004-05	92

Defence Career Partnering

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many recovery placements Defence Career Partnering has made since its inception. [1[illegible]74]

Mr Robathan: Defence Career Partnering is an arrangement between the Ministry of Defence and selected organisations to promote the recovery and rehabilitation of wounded, injured or sick service personnel by way of providing work experience in areas of employment they may not have knowledge of.

Since September 2009, 53 recovery placements have been arranged, or are at various stages of development. Experience gained by those participating in such schemes has rebuilt self esteem and contributed to their own future employability either within the armed forces or outside.

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what contracts his Department has entered into in establishing Defence Career Partnering; [18275]

(2) what services his Department contracts for the delivery of Defence Career Partnering. [18276]

Mr Robathan: The Department has not entered into any contracts to establish, or for services to deliver, Defence Career Partnering.

Defence Career Partnering is a partnering arrangement under which the Ministry of Defence partners with selected organisations under a memorandum of agreement to work collaboratively on a range of personnel projects. For example, the Return to Work Initiative provides work experience opportunities for wounded, injured and sick service personnel, as well as enabling industry to show their support for our armed forces.

Defence: Procurement

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on facilitating the award to small and medium-sized enterprises of contracts for maintenance and support for *(a)* Typhoon and *(b)* other major equipment platforms sold overseas. [17108]

Peter Luff: It is Government policy to encourage and assist Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) in securing contracts with the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and overseas customers. The MOD Defence Suppliers' Service helps SMEs and other companies wishing to sell products and services to the MOD, by explaining the acquisition process and providing contact points both within the Department and for our prime contractors, who may have subcontracting requirements. The MOD encourages competition wherever possible in the allocation of lower-tier subcontracts and this provides opportunities for SMEs to bid for elements of larger projects.

In the specific case of Typhoon, the majority of contracts are placed, on behalf of the participating nations, by the NATO Eurofighter and Tornado Management Agency (NETMA) based in Munich and are, therefore, subject to German law. International industrial consortia acting as overall prime contractors for the aircraft and the engines then subcontract the work, including maintenance and support of the aircraft, to the respective national partner companies, including BAE Systems and Rolls-Royce in the UK.

The UK Trade and Investment Defence and Security Organisation is responsible for assisting British industry to identify defence export opportunities, including for major platforms sold overseas. It has a dedicated Small Business Unit.

After the Strategic Defence and Security Review process the MOD will publish a Defence Industry and Technological Policy Green Paper that will have a specific section dedicated to SME engagement.

Departmental Energy

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many diesel generators his Department and its agencies have purchased in each of the last five years. [17448]

Peter Luff: Diesel generators are procured for a broad variety of requirements across the Department and the information requested is not held centrally. Records indicate that the following generators have been purchased by the Ministry of Defence since 2005, although the majority of these data are not available broken down by year. Purchases by other business areas cannot be ruled out.

Financial year	*MOD Diesel Engine Group*
2005-06	9
2006-07	10
2007-08	4
2008-09	13
2009-10	17

Business area	*Total*
Battlefield Utilities	3,870
Air Commodities Team	6
Defence Estates[1]	60
Expeditionary Campaign Infrastructure Team	61
DE and S Ships	70

[1] Figures provided cover generators purchased in the UK only. Overseas there are different procurement arrangements and there is no central record.

Additionally, 37 multi-functional aircraft ground support equipments containing a power generation capability along with a number of other functions, to support joint helicopter command battlefield helicopter operations from deployed flying sites, were purchased over the last five years.

Departmental Equality

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to publish equality impact assessments undertaken by his Department as part of the comprehensive spending review; and if he will make a statement. [18032]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 19 October 2010]:* The Ministry of Defence has carried out equality impact assessments as part of the Strategic Defence and Security Review and the spending review. Records of this will be kept for a minimum of five years and will be made available to third parties if requested.

Departmental Public Relations

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on public relations consultancy fees since his appointment. [17935]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 18 October 2010]:* Information on public relations consultancy fees is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

As with other Government Departments the Ministry of Defence is currently imposing restrictions on all new consultancy expenditure. The Office of Government Commerce will shortly be publishing details of all consultancy contracts with a value of £20,000 or more approved by Ministers since the imposition of the restrictions. No cases approved by Ministers since the restrictions were imposed have involved public relations consultancy.

Military Decorations

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answers of 6 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 172W, on military decorations and 15 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 1286W, on armed forces: medals, whether the review team on the award of medals has been constituted; whether the terms of reference for the review have been set; and if he will make a statement. [17798]

Mr Robathan: In our programme for Government we stated that we intended to review the awarding of medals. Discussions are currently taking place in order to determine the scope and terms of reference of this review.

Nuclear Power: Decommissioning

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his most recent estimate is of the monetary value of decommissioning liabilities at Atomic Weapons Establishments. [17295]

Peter Luff: The cost associated with the decommissioning, care and maintenance of redundant facilities at the Atomic Weapons Establishment is estimated to be in the order of £2.7 billion as at 31 March 2010, at 2009-10 prices. This figure includes the conditioning, retrieval and storage of contaminated materials.

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many facilities at Atomic Weapons Establishments are *(a)* timetabled for decommissioning, *(b)* incare and maintenance awaiting decommissioning and *(c)* undergoing decommissioning. [17296]

Peter Luff: The numbers of nuclear facilities at the Atomic Weapons Establishments that are timetabled for decommissioning, in care and maintenance awaiting decommissioning and undergoing decommissioning are 33 timetabled for decommissioning, six in care and maintenance awaiting decommissioning, and three undergoing decommissioning.

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether a timetable has been set for decommissioning the gravel gerties at the Atomic Weapons Establishment, Burghfield. [17315]

Peter Luff: Decommissioning activities for the gravel gerties (the current nuclear warhead assembly and dissassembly facilities at Atomic Weapons Establishment, Burghfield) are currently planned to commence in late 2015 and to be complete in late 2021.

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what options are under consideration for decommissioning the Pangbourne Pipeline at the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) Aldermaston; and when he expects the AWE Executive Board to complete its business evaluation of proposals for decommissioning the pipeline. [17316]

Peter Luff: Two options are under consideration for the decommissioning of the Pangbourne Pipeline: to leave it in-situ or to remove it. The Executive Board of AWE plc is expected to complete the evaluation of proposals for decommissioning the pipeline by March 2011.

EDUCATION

Academies

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Education for what reason his Department does not require academies to provide the curriculum entitlement of a maintained school; and if he will make a statement. [12276]

Mr Gibb: Academies are not required to follow the national curriculum because we believe that having the flexibility to be imaginative in their curriculum design, within a broad and balanced context, is a core freedom which is at the heart of the academies programme.

All academies established by the Secretary of State enter into a funding agreement. This funding agreement provides the framework within which the academy must operate. Furthermore, the ongoing funding of the academy trust is contingent upon the conditions in its funding agreement being met, one of which is having a curriculum that is balanced and broadly based.

Adoption: Finance

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on the cost to adoptive parents of adopting a child; what plans he has for the future level of the inter-agency fee; and what recent representations he has received on the financial situation of voluntary adoption agencies. [14481]

Tim Loughton: Regular discussions take place, covering a wide range of topics, between Ministers from the Department for Education and their counterparts in the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Local authorities have the discretion to give financial support to adopters whose adopted children can cost more to care for than other children. Although local authorities must make their own decisions, I hope they will always want to prioritise services for the most vulnerable, including looked-after children, and those moving into and out of care.

Ministers are in close contact with representatives of the adoption sector, and are very aware of their concerns. They do not set the inter-agency fee, but are currently considering what action should be taken in other areas, for example to help reduce delay in placements for adoption. It is particularly important that local authorities take full account of the evidence in the research paper 'Adoption and the Inter-agency Fee':

http://adoptionresearchinitiative.org.uk/study7.html

This makes clear that effective use of voluntary adoption agencies has a positive impact on finding suitable and timely placements at a lower cost for local authorities.

I have set up an adoption advisory group that will look at all aspects of adoption, to help ensure that suitable adoptive placements can be made available in a timely manner for all those children for whom adoption is the appropriate permanent placement.

Children in Care

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will bring forward proposals to improve arrangements for accountability in decision-making in respect of decisions on removal of children from parental care. [18367]

Tim Loughton: A key principle of the Children Act 1989 is that children are best looked after within their families unless compulsory intervention in family life is necessary. This is reflected in the local authority's functions to provide services which support children and their families.

Unless they have the parents' consent, local authorities cannot remove children from their parents' care without first referring the matter to a court. In every case where a child is taken into care on a care order, the courts will have considered all the evidence and taken the view that there is reasonable cause to believe that the child is suffering from, or is likely to suffer, significant harm.

The Family Justice Review is currently considering what changes are needed to improve the operation of the family justice system and deliver better outcomes for the children and families it serves. Care proceedings and the accountability arrangements supporting them are part of the review's deliberations. The review is due to deliver its interim report in the spring and its final report in the autumn next year.

Children: Protection

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has for the future provision of child protection services previously provided through the Government Office Network; and what assessment he has made of the likely effects on child protection services of the closure of that Network. [16420]

Tim Loughton: Following the Government's decision to close the Government office for London and the announcement of its intention, in principle, to abolish the remaining eight regional Government offices, the Secretary of State for Education has made clear that we will be ending virtually all of this Department's functions delivered by Government offices.

Closing the regional Government office network is in line with the Government's policy on removing administrative layers and simplifying accountability across national and local government, and reducing public expenditure. It will also contribute to delivering the Government's commitment to empower local authorities by removing top down monitoring, support and challenge, freeing them up to focus on their own plans for improvement.

To support Government's accountability for the child protection system as a whole, departmental officials have notified Ministers routinely of significant developments in relation to serious child care incidents; so that a view can be formed as to how well child protection arrangements are working across the country. This information has up until now been provided by local authority and Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) staff to Government office Children and Learner teams who have, in turn, liaised with departmental officials. From 1 October the gathering of information on serious child care incidents and serious case reviews in relation to local authorities and LSCBs in London has been carried out by a team within the Department for Education. This team will, from a later date, also carry out this function in relation to local authorities and LSCBs across the rest of England.

The Government are committed to ensuring that we have the information necessary to support our national role in relation to child protection. We will keep these new arrangements under review and have sought feedback from local authorities and LSCBs on the operation of the new system.

Departmental Travel

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate his Department has made of its expenditure on travel undertaken in an official capacity by each Minister in his Department in (i) May 2010 and (ii) June 2010. [8225]

Tim Loughton: As set out in the ministerial code Departments will publish, at least quarterly, details of all travel overseas by Ministers. Information for the first quarter will be published as soon as it is ready.

I refer the hon. Member to my answer given to the hon. Member for York Central (Hugh Bayley) on 6 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 346W.

All travel is undertaken in accordance with the ministerial code.

Education: Finance

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what grants his Department has made to *(a)* the Personal Social Health and Economic Education Association, *(b)* the Sex Education Forum of the National Children's Bureau and *(c)* the National Personal and Social Education Association for Advisors, Inspectors and Consultants in each of the last five years; how much grant funding is planned for each body in the next two years; what the (i) monetary value and (ii) purpose of each such grant is; and if he will make a statement. [17857]

Mr Gibb: The Department has made grant payments to the Personal Social Health and Economic (PSHE) Education Association over the past five years as follows:

	Grant (£)
2006-07	200,000
2007-08	150,000
2008-09	260,000
2009-10	260,000
2010-11	260,000

The purpose of the grant was to support the provision of PSHE in schools; for the first two years (2006-07 to 2007-08) the grant money was paid to the National Children's Bureau (NCB) who hosted the Association.

The Sex Education Forum (SEF) received grant payments from the Department over the past five years as follows:

	Grant (£)
2006-07	143,000
2007-08	143,000
2008-09	158,000

	Grant (£)
2009-10	156,000
2010-11	116,000

The overall purpose of grant funding for the SEF over the last five years was to support schools in providing sex and relationship education. More specifically in years 2006-07 and 2007-08, £27,000 was allocated to develop guidance and set-up and maintain a support network for health advisers working in drop-in centres in schools and FE colleges. In 2008-09 the grant included funding to cover work related to the previous Government's review of Sex and Relationships Education in schools. Funding for 2009-10 was set at £156,000 to continue the development of networks, promulgate best practice and work towards making PSHE, including Sex and Relationship Education, statutory in the National Curriculum (part of the previous Government's policy). Grant funding for 2010-11 has been provisionally profiled at £116,000.

The Department has not paid any grants to the National Personal and Social Education Association for Advisors, Inspectors and Consultants over the past five years.

Grant payments for the next two years have not yet been decided.

GCSE

Mr Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of children taking GCSEs in *(a)* grammar schools, *(b)* comprehensive schools, *(c)* secondary modern schools and *(d)* independent schools were awarded five or more GCSEs at (i) A* to A and (ii) A* to B grades in the most recent year for which figures are available. [12636]

Mr Gibb: In 2009, the percentages of pupils awarded five or more GCSEs by school type and grade are shown in the following table:

Percentage of pupils at the end of key stage 4 who were awarded 5 or more GCSEs

	Grades	Percentage
	A - A*	*A* - B*
Grammar schools	63.3	91.0
Comprehensive schools	12.1	29.9
Secondary modern schools	5.0	18.4
Mainstream independent schools	48.6	72.3

Note:
GCSEs counted are full/applied, short course (counts half) and double awards (counts double).
Source:
Achievement and Attainment Tables.

History: GCSE

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how many and what proportion of pupils were entered for history GCSE in (i) comprehensive schools, (ii) selective maintained schools and (iii) independent schools in each year since 1997; [15946]

(2) how many and what proportion of pupils entered for history GCSE in *(a)* comprehensive schools, *(b)* selective maintained schools and *(c)* independent schools obtained a grade C or above in each year since 1997. [15947]

Mr Gibb: The information is given in the following tables.

School type	Number of pupils[1] entering history GCSE[2]			Percentage of pupils[1] entering history GCSE[2]		
	Comp	*Selective*	*Indep[3]*	*Comp*	*Selective*	*Indep[3]*
1997	166,407	10,898	20,940	35.7	53.6	50.0
1998	152,067	10,033	20,450	31.9	50.2	46.9
1999	152,865	10,313	19,826	31.7	50.8	46.3
2000	153,018	10,735	20,155	31.8	53.2	47.2
2001	156,114	11,330	20,863	31.2	54.0	47.4
2002	154,434	11,423	21,245	30.6	53.8	48.1
2003	155,124	11,424	21,286	30.0	52.6	48.0
2004	163,468	12,140	22,233	30.7	54.6	47.3
2005	161,904	12,213	23,439	30.8	54.8	50.1
2006	164,103	12,542	23,907	30.7	55.7	49.1
2007	161,001	11,865	23,951	29.8	52.8	49.9
2008	160,362	12,147	23,694	29.9	53.8	49.5
2009	155,381	11,914	23,229	29.9	53.2	48.0

	Number of pupils[1] passing history GCSE[2] at grade A*-C			Percentage of pupils[1] entering history GCSE[2] that pass at grade A*-C		
	Comp	*Selective*	*Indep[3]*	*Comp*	*Selective*	*Indep[3]*
1997	86,339	10,005	19,342	51.9	91.8	92.4
1998	79,579	9,379	18,971	52.3	93.5	92.8
1999	83,305	9,681	18,494	54.5	93.9	93.3
2000	85,186	10,197	18,819	55.7	95.0	93.4
2001	86,813	10,781	19,387	55.6	95.2	92.9
2002	87,543	10,751	19,895	56.7	94.1	93.6
2003	91,133	10,932	20,070	58.7	95.7	94.3
2004	96,222	11,589	20,907	58.9	95.5	94.0
2005	97,748	11,648	22,062	60.4	95.4	94.1
2006	100,031	11,927	22,391	61.0	95.1	93.7
2007	99,823	11,357	22,496	62.0	95.7	93.9
2008	100,935	11,597	22,191	62.9	95.5	93.7
2009	99,697	11,457	21,679	64.2	96.2	93.3

Notes:

[1] For the years 1997-2004, 15 year old pupils are counted. For the years 2005-09, pupils at the end of key stage 4 are counted. Note also that these figures include pupils recently arrived from overseas that will not be included in the local authority level figures in PQs 15948 and 15949.

[2] Only full GCSE courses have been counted.

[3] Pupils at independent special schools are also counted.

Music: Education

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he plans to take to identify and nurture musical talent in schools following the end of the Standards Fund in 2011. [12528]

Mr Gibb: A solid, knowledge-based music education for all children and young people is very important to this Government. We also believe that every child should learn to play a musical instrument and to sing. No decision has been taken on funding for music education beyond March 2011 as the spending review continues. Following the review we will set out how we plan to promote the teaching of music and the development of musical talent in schools. The Secretary of State announced on 24 September that he has asked Darren Henley, managing director of Classic FM, to carry out a review focusing on the funding routes and delivery mechanisms for music education making recommendations on how the funding for music education can be made to work harder and smarter to produce that quality experience for children and young people.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum

Paul Uppal: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of her Department's progress against its objective to complete outstanding decisions on legacy asylum cases by 2011. [17994]

Damian Green: The chief executive of the UK Border Agency, Lin Homer, updated the Home Affairs Select Committee (HASC) on 19 July 2010. The Case Resolution Directorate had concluded 277,000 cases up to the end of May 2010. She will provide a further progress update on the conclusion of these cases in her next correspondence to the HASC later in the autumn.

Asylum: West Midlands

Paul Uppal: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers who are the subject of legacy cases are resident in Wolverhampton South West constituency. [17995]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency is unable to accurately report on the outstanding asylum cases being dealt with by the Case Resolution Directorate (CRD) in the Wolverhampton South West constituency.

As reported in July 2010 to the Home Affairs Select Committee, 50% of the concluded cases were data errors and required no further action. In addition, due to the age of some cases addresses on file are subsequently found to have changed. Therefore, any such report would be unable to accurately represent CRD cases with outstanding applications.

The agency will be reporting on its current performance in clearing the backlog later in the autumn. I am confident that the agency is on track to clear the backlog of older asylum cases by summer 2011.

Paul Uppal: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers who applied for asylum in the last 12 months are resident in Wolverhampton South West constituency. [18001]

Damian Green: Between 1 October 2009 and 30 September 2010, 147 main applicants and 71 linked dependants (a total of 218 individuals) applied for asylum with addresses within the area of Wolverhampton South West.

All figures quoted are internal management information only and are subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols.

Borders: Personal Records

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many consultants her Department employed on the e-Borders programme in each year since 2006-07, and at what cost; what the role of each such consultant was; what assessment she has made of the performance of such consultants against the objectives of the programme; and if she will make a statement. [16990]

Damian Green *[holding answer 13 October 2010]:* The following table provides the numbers and costs of consultants and independent contractors employed by the e-Borders programme since 2006:

Consultancy	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Headcount	103	81	53	60
Costs (£)	10,046,869	9,601,330	10,651,890	11,810,027

The consultancy expenditure during 2010-11 for the first six months (April to September) has been £4,706,591.

The periods covered saw the programme move from procurement of the strategic solution and provision of the Semaphore pilot system to the more complex activity to assure the design and delivery of the strategic solution. The fall in consultant and contractor headcount during this time did not deliver an equivalent reduction in cost since there was an associated change in the mix and type of consultancy support provided, along with a need to use more hours from individual consultants because of the pressures on the programme and the requirement for their specialist knowledge.

Prior to contract award, the role of consultants was to manage and provide advice on the procurement process. Following contract award, consultants provided advice and support in a number of areas including business design, programme management, carrier and port liaison and testing activities.

All work carried out by consultants was agreed in formal work packages which detailed the deliverables and activities required. Achievement of those deliverables was signed off by civil servants. Consideration of the value for money provided by consultants in carrying out these activities was an integral part of the process in agreeing each work package.

The e-Borders programme has been managed throughout by senior civil servants reporting ultimately to the senior responsible officer. Advice and guidance on specialist areas of expertise has been provided by consultants during this period to the senior management team and the e-Borders programme.

Borders: Procurement

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will assess the value for money of undertaking a further procurement exercise for the e-Borders programme. [18262]

Damian Green *[holding answer 19 October 2010]*: Since the e-Borders contract was terminated on 22 July 2010 due to significant and persistent breaches of contract by Raytheon Systems Ltd., it has been necessary to develop a strategy to procure services to replace those under the original e-Borders contract. This will include rigorous assessment of value for money.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Visitors

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations she has received on the application process for tourist visas to the UK for those living in China. [17911]

Damian Green: UK Border Agency officials are in regular contact with corporate partners in the tourist industry regarding the processing of UK tourist visa applications in various countries, including China. The Agency remains committed to providing a visa service that not only assists UK plc by encouraging genuine visitors, students and business people to come to the UK, but also prevents those who seek to abuse our immigration laws or pose a criminal or security risk from reaching the country.

The Agency aims to process 90% of general (tourist) visit visas within 15 working days and is currently meeting this target in China. For example, 92% of general visit visa applications lodged at the Beijing visa application centre and concluded in September this year were resolved within 15 working days, with 60% being resolved within 10 days.

Foreign Workers

Mr Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 7 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 287W, on foreign workers, how many work permit intracompany transfers have been granted to each of the three companies referred to in the answer in each year since the inception of the intracompany transfer scheme. [17453]

Damian Green: The requested information is set out in the following table.

Work permit intra company transfers approvals 1999-2008

	By top three largest employer user of work permits		
	Number	*Number*	*Number*
1999	260	0	0
2000	1,170	5	0
2001	1,350	0	65
2002	1,900	5	330
2003	2,165	610	225
2004	3,050	1,810	870
2005	2,970	2,450	905
2006	3,825	2,755	1,235
2007	3,910	2,890	2,910
2008	4,470	2,385	3,065

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to nearest 5.

2. The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Caveats:

1. The figures do not equate to the number of individual nationals who were granted permits because they include those applications approved to extend or amend an existing permit or where the individual has moved to another job with a different employer. Not all those who were granted a permit took up the job and some may have been refused entry clearance or further leave to remain.

2. Information is only available up until 2008 as the scheme closed at the end of 2008.

Human Trafficking: Convictions

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been *(a)* arrested, *(b)* charged, *(c)* prosecuted and *(d)* convicted in relation to offences of trafficking for sexual exploitation under sections 57 to 60 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003. [17976]

Damian Green: As of 30 June 2010 in relation to offences of trafficking for sexual exploitation there have been:

558 arrests;

294 people charged and prosecuted for trafficking and or other related offences; and

233 convictions comprising 139 for human trafficking and 94 for other offences including rape, brothel management and money laundering.

As at the end of June 2010 there were 61 cases that were at various stages of the criminal justice system.

The figures have been supplied by the UK Human Trafficking Centre.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been *(a)* arrested, *(b)* charged, *(c)* prosecuted and *(d)* convicted in relation to offences related to slavery, servitude or forced or compulsory labour under section 71 of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009. [17977]

Damian Green: The information requested is not available.

The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, covering categories such as violence against the person and robbery. From these centrally reported categories it is not possible to separately identify individual offences.

Section 71 of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 was implemented on 6 April 2010. The most recently available data on court proceedings (held by the Ministry of Justice) are 2008.

Court data for 2010 will be available in 2011.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been *(a)* arrested, *(b)* charged, *(c)* prosecuted and *(d)* convicted in respect of offences of trafficking under section 31 of the UK Border Act 2007 committed (i) in and (ii) outside the UK. [17978]

Damian Green: None.

Section 31 of the Borders Act 2007 does not create a separate offence of trafficking but amends the offences contained within existing legislation which criminalises human trafficking.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been *(a)* arrested, *(b)* charged, *(c)* prosecuted and *(d)* convicted in respect of offences of trafficking for labour and other exploitation under section 4 of the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants) Act 2004 committed (i) in and (ii) outside the UK. [17979]

Damian Green: As of 30 June 2010 in relation to offences of trafficking for labour exploitation there have been:

270 arrests:

86 people charged and prosecuted for trafficking and or other related offences: and

26 convictions comprising 10 for human trafficking and 16 for other offences.

At the end of June there were 50 cases at various stages of the criminal justice system.

The figures have been supplied by the UK Human Trafficking Centre.

These figures relate to offences within the United Kingdom. There has been one conviction of trafficking for forced labour where the victim was trafficked out of the UK. This offence was dealt with under the legislation of the receiving country.

Immigration

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for indefinite leave to remain from applicants originally from *(a)* Afghanistan, *(b)* Pakistan, *(c)* Iraq, *(d)* Somalia, *(e)* Zimbabwe, *(f)* Turkey and *(g)* India have been (i) received and (ii) approved in each quarter since May 2005; and if she will make a statement. [17794]

Damian Green: All the data requested have been placed in the Library of the House of Commons.

We have interpreted my hon. Friend's question to mean the number of applications for indefinite leave to remain in each quarter and of those, how many were approved.

This is internal management information and is subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols.

Immigration: Bulgaria

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 12 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 303W, on immigration: Bulgaria, if she will assess the likely effect on levels of immigration of the extension by the government of Bulgaria of passport entitlement to citizens of Ukraine and Belarus. [18181]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency will continue to monitor closely any significant changes in the numbers of Bulgarians coming to the UK. During 2011 there will be an assessment of the available evidence of levels and impacts of migration to the UK by citizens of Romania and Bulgaria, to inform a decision on whether transitional controls on their access to work should be extended for a further two years on the grounds that to do otherwise would risk a serious disturbance to the labour market.

Passports

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what requirement there is for British passport holders to have their passports checked and scanned on *(a)* leaving and *(b)* entering the UK; and if she will make a statement. [17717]

Damian Green *[holding answer 18 October 2010]*: The UK Border Agency policy is that all passengers passing through UK immigration control have their travel documents checked and scanned on entry, and departure controls are undertaken on a risk-assessed intelligence-led basis.

This is underpinned by legislation—under Paragraph 2 (1) of Schedule 2 to the Immigration Act 1971, an immigration officer may examine any persons who have arrived in the United Kingdom for the purpose of determining whether they are a British citizen and, if they are not, whether they may enter the United Kingdom without leave and, if they may not, whether they should be granted or refused leave to enter.

Paragraph 3(1) of Schedule 2 permits an immigration officer to carry out a similar examination on persons seeking to embark from the United Kingdom for the purpose of establishing identity, and whether a person has entered lawfully, or has complied with conditions of any grant of leave, or whether their return to the United Kingdom is prohibited or restricted.

Prisoners: Foreign Nationals

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign prisoners held on the prison estate have completed their sentences but have yet to be deported to their home countries; and if she will make a statement. [17793]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency and the National Offender Management Service work closely to ensure that foreign national prisoners (FNPs) are removed from the UK at the earliest opportunity.

In 2009, for an average month, approximately 550 foreign national prisoners were detained in prison beyond the end of their custodial sentence while deportation was pursued.

Seasonal Agricultural Workers' Scheme

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many work cards were issued under the Seasonal Agricultural Workers' Scheme in each of the last five years. [18396]

Damian Green: The following table shows both the quota for each of the last five years and the number of work cards issued to workers.

For the current year, all 21,250 cards have been allocated to operators according to a pre-agreed share. Not all cards have been issued to workers at the time of writing.

	Quota	*Cards issued to workers*
2006	16,250	16,088
2007	16,250	16,216
2008	16,250	16,250
2009	21,250	21,248
2010[1]	21,250	21,151

	Quota	Cards issued to workers
Total	91,250	90,953

[1] Cards issued to end September 2010.

Note:

The number of work cards issued is not representative of the number of individuals working in the UK under the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme. Not all cards allocated are used, and some cards are issued as replacements for lost or spoiled cards.

Source:

This information has been provided from local management information and is not a National Statistic.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

India: Pesticides

Toby Perkins: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, on the sale of pesticides by UK companies to cotton farmers in India. [17964]

Mr O'Brien: The Secretary of State for International Development has not had any discussions with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, on the sale of pesticides by UK companies to cotton farmers in India.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Carer's Allowance

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* women and *(b)* men from each age group are in receipt of carer's allowance. [15846]

Maria Miller: The requested information is shown in the following table:

People in receipt of carer's allowance in Great Britain and abroad—by age group: February 2010

Age of claimant	Male	Female
Total	142,860	388,030
Unknown age	*	10
Under 18	580	890
18-24	7,920	15,140
25-29	6,570	25,830
30-34	8,040	39,470
35-39	12,420	57,420
40-44	17,290	64,840
45-49	19,600	58,080
50-54	19,640	49,890
55-59	21,500	48,790
60-64	25,920	12,880
65 and over	3,390	14,790

"*" Denotes nil or negligible.

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. These figures are published at:
http://83.244.183.180/100pc/tabtool.html
3. Totals show the number of people in receipt of an allowance and excludes people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100% data

Funeral Payments: Kilmarnock

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many claimants in Kilmarnock and Loudoun constituency have received funeral payments in each of the last five years; [17123]

(2) what estimate he made of the monetary value of funeral payments made to claimants in Kilmarnock and Loudoun constituency in each of the last five years. [17124]

Steve Webb: The information requested is not available. The number of funeral payment awards and their monetary value are available by Government Office Region or Jobcentre Plus Social Fund budget area only, not by constituency. Because of boundary changes to the areas used to administer funeral payments, comparable data over the last five years are not available at Jobcentre Plus Social Fund budget area level for Scotland. The following table gives information for the Government Office Region of Scotland.

Funeral payments in Scotland

	Number of awards	Expenditure (£ million)
2005-06	6,400	6.8
2006-07	6,100	6.8
2007-08	6,000	6.8
2008-09	5,800	6.7
2009-10	5,600	6.5

Note:

The number of awards has been rounded to the nearest 100 and expenditure to the nearest £0.1 million.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System

Income Support: Eligibility

Mr Spencer: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will bring forward proposals to ensure that people in receipt of income support who are entering full-time education continue to receive benefits up to the date their course begins. [17546]

Maria Miller: People in receipt of income support are able to receive benefit up to the date at which they start attending or undertaking their course of study. After this date financial support is the responsibility of the education system. Students who find themselves in financial hardship, for example if their student loan is delayed, can apply to their university or college for financial assistance from the discretionary Access to Learning Fund.

Independent Living Fund

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether an equality impact assessment will be made in respect of proposed changes to the Independent Living Fund. [17098]

Maria Miller: The long-term future of the Independent Living Fund is being considered as part of the forthcoming spending review and no decisions have yet been made. However, I can confirm that should changes be made to the operation of the Independent Living Fund, equality impact assessments will be carried out, as appropriate.

Jobcentre Plus

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of outreach services offered by Jobcentre Plus. [17192]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh, dated October 2010:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what recent assessment has been made of the effectiveness of the outreach services offered by Jobcentre Plus. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus currently provides a variety of outreach services at around 1500 locations right across the country. We recognise the potential of these services to meet the needs of customers and communities and to reach the most disadvantaged and vulnerable in society. These outreach services complement our core services delivered through other channels.

Outreach schemes take a number of different forms. Among them are: outreach in local authority and community centres, providing ease of access to advice and support; prison outreach, which provides specific support to prisoners as part of their preparation for release; and outreach at school gates, children's centres and colleges. Much of this outreach work is by its nature local. However, national initiatives are evaluated centrally. For example, in 2008 the Work-Focused Services in Children's Centres pilot was set up, under which Jobcentre Plus Advisers are co-located full-time in children's centres and provide enhanced packages of support. An evaluation is testing the effect of this model on parents' preparation for (and movement into) work, as well as multi-agency working. Interim findings show that parents welcome accessing work-focused services in the children's centre, particularly in comparison to the local Jobcentre Plus office. This work is ongoing and the final evaluation report will be available in September 2011.

In Autumn 2009 Jobcentre Plus put in place community outreach teams in three locations to work with the individuals and households that faced the most disadvantages. Working closely with social housing providers and other partner organisations, Jobcentre Plus advisers are engaging with jobless residents, helping them access the support they need to address multiple disadvantages. They are helping people who had previously considered themselves to be outside the labour market. In August 2010 the initiative was extended to a further 13 social housing estates across England, Wales and Scotland.

We intend to produce a comprehensive evaluation of the project that focuses not only on job outcomes and engagements but also covers the specific barriers to employment that have been overcome, social benefits, the localism approach and the value of partnership working. This evaluation is ongoing; the timescale for publishing the report will be dependent on decisions made about the project following the Spending Review.

For the future, I see outreach as an important way of delivering our services. We will continue to work with partners at a local level to establish new and innovative ways of sharing premises, facilitate the provision of more cohesive local services, promote our services to a wider customer base and potentially reduce overall Government estate costs.

I hope this information is helpful.

Low Incomes: Personal Savings

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to encourage saving among low-income households. [17571]

Steve Webb: DWP is developing the capacity of community sector financial service providers such as credit unions so that people on low incomes, traditionally not well served by mainstream financial institutions, have access to savings products, affordable credit and basic banking. By August 2010 the DWP Growth Fund had served over 300,000 people, of whom around 65% had been helped to open a bank or savings account. DWP Financial Inclusion Champions are also working with local authorities, social landlords and the community sector to encourage people to access these financial services.

The Government are also committed to introducing a new duty on employers to automatically enrol eligible jobholders into workplace pension schemes to address pension undersaving. Evidence suggests that around seven million people are currently not saving enough to deliver the income they are likely to want or expect in retirement and a high proportion of those are low to moderate earners.

Motability

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment he has made of the appropriateness of the medical criteria for eligibility for the Motability scheme. [17670]

Maria Miller: Eligibility for the Motability scheme is dependent on a person being entitled to the higher rate mobility component of disability living allowance or the War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement. Entitlement is not determined by medical criteria but by the extent to which a person's disability gives rise to mobility difficulties. This is consistent with Motability's objective of helping severely disabled people with personal mobility needs. The Government announced in the June Emergency Budget that it would reform disability living allowance and will continue to work closely with disabled people, voluntary organisations and medical experts to develop a new independent and objective assessment of need.

National Insurance: Costs

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the annual savings in expenditure achieved by distributing national insurance numbers by letter in each of the next five years, as submitted through the Spending Challenge website as part of the process for the Comprehensive Spending Review. [16694]

Mr Gauke: I have been asked to reply.

From 2011, HMRC will issue national insurance numbers to people by letter rather than providing a plastic card, saving the Government up to £1 million a year in upfront costs. From October 2010, where a replacement card is requested, a letter will be sent instead of a plastic card, saving £50,000 in 2010-11.

Pensioners: Wales

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in each Parliamentary constituency in North Wales received *(a)* pension credit, *(b)* winter fuel allowance and *(c)* disability living allowance in each of the last five years. [16999]

Steve Webb: The information is in the tables.

Pension credit caseload time series, number of beneficiaries, North Wales

Parliamentary constituency May 2010	*February 2010*	*Parliamentary constituency May 2005*	*February 2009*	*February 2008*	*February 2007*	*February 2006*
Aberconwy	3,960	Alyn and Deeside	4,250	4,230	4,170	4,190
Alyn and Deeside	4,310	Caernarfon	4,520	4,480	4,670	4,650
Arfon	3,800	Clwyd South	4,990	4,950	4,930	4,880
Clwyd South	4,880	Clwyd West	5,690	5,670	5,680	5,520
Clwyd West	5,830	Conwy	4,720	4,680	4,750	4,730
Delyn	4,500	Delyn	4,510	4,450	4,450	4,370
Dwyfor Meirionnydd	4,760	Meirionnydd Nant Conwy	3,180	3,130	3,120	3,070
Vale of Clwyd	6,370	Vale of Clwyd	6,270	6,270	6,210	6,030
Wrexham	4,410	Wrexham	4,430	4,370	4,370	4,380
Yns Mon	5,130	Yns Mon	5,150	5,110	5,090	5,050

Notes:

1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

2. Household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves or on behalf of themselves and a partner. Beneficiaries are the number of claimants in addition to the number of partners for whom they are claiming.

3. Constituencies used for February 2010 are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010. Prior to this, the Constituencies used are for May 2005.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100% data.

Winter fuel payment caseload time series, North Wales

Parliamentary constituency (2005)	*2009-10*	*2008-09*	*2007-08*	*2006-07*	*2005-06*
Alyn and Deeside	17,580	17,090	16,550	15,940	15,530
Caernarfon	15,470	15,320	14,980	14,600	14,370
Clwyd South	16,370	16,020	15,500	15,010	14,690
Clwyd West	20,110	19,850	19,490	19,030	18,830
Conwy	18,190	17,970	17,710	17,360	17,120
Delyn	16,850	16,360	15,820	15,200	14,850
Meirionnydd Nant Conwy	12,200	11,970	11,760	11,450	11,330
Vale of Clwyd	18,450	18,150	17,750	17,260	17,120
Wrexham	15,110	14,710	14,350	13,800	13,590
Yns Mon	18,630	18,330	17,850	17,410	17,030

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

2. Parliamentary constituency boundaries are as for the Westminster Parliament of May 2005.

3. DWP are currently working on producing 2009-10 figures for the May 2010 parliamentary constituencies.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate 100% data.

Disability living allowance caseload time series, number of claimants, North Wales

Parliamentary constituency May 2010	*February 2010*	*Parliamentary constituency May 2005*	*February 2009*	*February 2008*	*February 2007*	*February 2006*
Aberconwy	3,350	Alyn and Deeside	4,550	4,410	4,240	4,180
Alyn and Deeside	5,250	Caernarfon	3,500	3,500	3,490	3,480
Arfon	3,550	Clwyd South	5,280	5,210	5,070	4,940
Clwyd South	5,220	Clwyd West	4,960	4,860	4,710	4,630
Clwyd West	5,140	Conwy	4,160	4,100	4,050	4,010
Delyn	4,870	Delyn	4,850	4,720	4,630	4,590
Dwyfor Meirionnydd	3,130	Meirionnydd Nant Conwy	2,260	2,190	2,130	2,110
Vale of Clwyd	6,790	Vale of Clwyd	6,570	6,460	6,290	6,170
Wrexham	5,120	Wrexham	5,110	4,990	4,950	4,830
Yns Mon	4,640	Yns Mon	4,630	4,610	4,570	4,520

Notes:

1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

2. Figures show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.

3. Constituencies used for February 2010 are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010. Prior to this, the constituencies used are for May 2005.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100% data.

Social Security Benefits: Disability

Mr Charles Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reasons his Department refers to individuals claiming employment and support allowance and other incapacity benefits as customers; and if he will make a statement. [16866]

Maria Miller: The Department uses the term 'customer' to reinforce the importance of its relationship with the individuals claiming all types of benefits including, employment and support allowance and other incapacity benefits.

The Department for Work and Pensions' work to develop and implement a 21st century welfare system is rooted in a professional, customer-focused relationship, and it is important that the language we use reflects this.

Research with customers, including those claiming incapacity benefits, indicates that customer-focused language is important—as reflected in the Department's Customer Charter.

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment his Department has made of the ease with which people with disabilities can complete application forms for disability benefits. [17602]

Maria Miller: As part of our consultation arrangements, Pension Disability and Carers Service (PDCS) co-ordinates the PDCS Advisory Forum, membership of which comprises of 22 organisations that collectively represent a broad range of our customers. PDCS routinely consults with the Advisory Forum on how all our claim forms can be improved, which includes Disability Living Allowance (DLA), Attendance Allowance (AA) and Carers Allowance (CA) forms. A new child DLA claim form has been developed in partnership with voluntary organisations including the National Autistic Society, National Deaf Children's Society, Citizens Advice and the Family Fund. This is currently being tested but early feedback from customer and children's organisations has been positive. Additionally, to take account of a new legislative provision where the Higher Rate Mobility Component can be claimed from April 2011 by certain severely visually impaired customers, PDCS are developing a new DLA Adult claim form in partnership with Royal National Institute for the Blind, Action for Blind People, Citizens Advice and representatives from local authorities. It is expected that the new DLA Adult form will be available from February 2011.

In addition, questions about the ease with which disabled customers can complete application forms for Disability Living Allowance and Attendance Allowance have been included in the Customer Satisfaction Monitor (a customer survey of 6,000 PDCS customers) that has been commissioned by the Pension Disability and Carers Service. The results from the first year of this survey are currently being assessed ahead of external publication in early 2011.

The Chancellor announced in the Emergency Budget that the Government will introduce a new, objective assessment for DLA from 2013-14. We will consider, as part of these reforms, how we can reduce the burden of long claim forms for applicants.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many persons suspected of offences related to benefit fraud were *(a)* arrested, *(b)* prosecuted and *(c)* convicted in each of the last 24 months. [17401]

Chris Grayling: Information on the total number of people suspected of offences relating to benefit fraud that were arrested in each of the last 24 months is not available.

Information is available on the number of people prosecuted and convicted following arrest in each of the last two financial years, as follows:

	Number prosecuted following arrest	*Number convicted*
2008-09	580	435
2009-10	424	395

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people waiting trial for offences relating to benefit fraud have absconded in each of the last five years. [17443]

Chris Grayling: Information on the number of people waiting trial for offences relating to benefit fraud that have absconded in each of the last five years is not available.

The Department seeks an arrest warrant in all circumstances in which a defendant fails to attend a hearing or trial without an explanation acceptable to the court.

On 14 October 2010, the Department held 550 warrant cases.

Social Security Benefits: Haematological Cancer

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what financial support a patient with a poor diagnosis of haematological cancer receives from his Department. [17745]

Maria Miller: There are a range of benefits available from the Department to help support people with life limiting conditions and for disabled people, including disability living allowance (DLA) or attendance allowance (AA), employment and support allowance (ESA) as well as housing benefit. An award of DLA can also give rise to a disability premium on out of work benefits such as income support and job seekers allowance.

A person who has a diagnosis of cancer and has care and/or mobility needs arising from their disability can claim DLA/AA under the normal rules. There are also special rules which apply to people who are terminally ill and not expected to live for longer than six months. Individuals with such diagnosis are automatically awarded the highest rate of the care component of disability living allowance, even if, at the time of the claim, they have no pre-existing care needs arising from their condition. Similar fast track arrangements exist with employment and support allowance.

Social Security Benefits: Visual Impairment

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he made of the number of new *(a)* incapacity benefit and *(b)* employment and support allowance claimants in the latest year for which figures are available who are blind or have partial sight loss as a result of illness. [16920]

Maria Miller: The information requested is not available in the format requested.

However, we do have information regarding the number of employment and support allowance customers who made a claim on the grounds of diseases of the eye and adnexa. From October 2008 to November 2009, 3,500 customers made a claim for employment and support allowance on this basis.

This information is available in Annex C of the publication 'Employment and Support Allowance: Work capability Assessment by Health Condition and Functional Impairment: official statistics'. This can be found at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/esa_wca/WCA_by_Health_Condition_and_Functional_Impairment.pdf

Between November 2008 and November 2009, 300 customers made a claim for incapacity benefit on the grounds of diseases of the eye and adnexa.

Travel to Interview Scheme

Mr Burley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people participated in the travel to interview scheme in each of the last five months; and what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of that scheme. [16852]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide my hon. Friend with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions asking how many people participated in the Travel to Interview Scheme in each of the last five months; and what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of that scheme. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The Travel to Interview Scheme helps customers compete for appropriate jobs outside their local travel to work area by providing help with travel costs for attending interviews. In deciding the appropriateness of an award, advisers will take into account a number of factors, which include making sure that the customer is aware of and is applying for jobs locally, the customer's ability to pay their own travel expenses, and how realistic and achievable the job in question is.

Turning to your specific question about the number of people participating in the scheme in each of the last five months, we do not routinely gather this information and to do so would be disproportionately expensive.

In terms of effectiveness, advisers and customers tell us the scheme is helpful and popular, but it is difficult to assess the success in terms of job outcomes. This is because the scheme aims to help people compete for appropriate jobs by enabling their attendance at interviews that would otherwise be out of reach. Once at interview the jobseeker is, of course, in competition with other applicants.

Winter Fuel Payments: British Nationals Abroad

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the monetary value was of winter fuel payments to former UK residents living abroad in the most recent year for which information is available; and if he will make a statement. [17751]

Steve Webb: In 2009-10 we made 70,880 winter fuel payments to people living in the European economic area and Switzerland at a cost of around £15 million. This represents less than 1% of the total winter fuel payments made in that year.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate 100% data.

Winter Fuel Payments: West Midlands

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people received winter fuel allowance in *(a)* Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council and *(b)* Warley constituency in the latest period for which figures are available. [17565]

Steve Webb: The information is available in the documents winter fuel payment recipients 2009-10 by local authority and gender (All) and winter fuel payment recipients 2009-10 by parliamentary constituencies and gender (All). These are available in the Commons Library and on the internet at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=wfp

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Empty Property: Land

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what his most recent estimate is of the monetary value of each vacant *(a)* building and *(b)* parcel of land leased by his Department in each region. [18206]

John Penrose: The Department currently pays a rental value of £850,447 +VAT per annum for vacant space, at 2-4 Cockspur Street, that became available on 29 March 2010.

The Department does not lease any parcels of land.

Horserace Totalisator Board

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what timetable he has set for the sale of the Horserace Totalisator Board. [18179]

John Penrose: My right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer confirmed in the Budget on 22 June that the Government will, over the next 12 months, resolve the future of the Tote in a way that secures value for the taxpayer while recognising the support the Tote currently provides the racing industry.

A variety of possible approaches are being discussed with different stakeholders, and the Government will continue to talk to all parties with an interest in the Tote during that process. We will announce which structure has been agreed as soon as possible.

News Corporation

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have had with executives of (i) News International Limited and (ii) News Corporation since their appointment. [16717]

Mr Vaizey: Since being appointed, the Secretary of State formally met James Murdoch of News International Limited on 28 June, and I formally met Rebekah Brooks of News Corporation on 12 July.

Olympic Games 2012: Ceramics

Robert Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) how many UK ceramic manufacturers have been awarded contracts by his Department to produce ceramic ware for the London 2012 Olympic Games; [17787]

(2) whether contractual requirements have been placed on UK ceramic manufacturers awarded contracts by his Department for the London 2012 Olympic Games to ensure that they manufacture ware in the UK rather than import ware for decoration and repackaging in the UK. [17788]

Hugh Robertson *[holding answer 18 October 2010]*: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) has not directly awarded any contracts to UK ceramic manufacturers for the London 2012 Olympic Games.

As a non-departmental public body (NDPB) of DCMS, the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) is responsible for delivering the permanent venues and infrastructure for the Games, and contracts to ceramic manufacturers have been awarded to achieve this. The numbers and contractual requirements of these contracts are not currently held by the ODA as they have been awarded further down the supply chain by the tier one contractors and not by the ODA.

The London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) is responsible for the official London 2012 merchandising and licensing programme, which helps to raise LOCOG's £2 billion privately-financed budget to stage the Games. Earlier this year, LOCOG appointed Waterford Crystal, Wedgewood and Royal Doulton as its ceramic and crystal licensee, to produce London 2012 commemorative and souvenir merchandise. Beyond this, LOCOG has no major requirement for ceramics procurement.

Schools: Sydenham

Jim Dowd: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when he expects to make a decision on the recommendation of English Heritage to list parts of the structure of Sydenham School; and what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Education on the effect of this decision on the implementation of the Building Schools for the Future project at that school. [18123]

John Penrose: The evidence in relation to Sydenham School is being assessed and I expect to make a decision within the next six weeks. However, the process may take longer if additional scrutiny reveals issues that require further investigation. I have had no discussions with the Secretary of State for Education on the effect of a listing decision. The list is a register which recognises the special interest of buildings. In choosing buildings for addition to the list I cannot consider any factors other than their architectural or historic interest.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Departmental Public Relations

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the monetary value was of *(a)* public opinion research and *(b)* public relations contracts awarded by his Department in each of the last five years in each (A) nation and (B) region of the UK. [12467]

Mr Davey: The total spent on publicity via the Central Office of Information (COI) and directly with public relations agencies in the last five financial years is:

	Total amount (£)
2005/06 DTI Campaigns	
Consumer Direct PR—freelance contract	32,694
Consumer Direct PR October 2005 to March 2006	57,447
Consumer Direct PR—MP Event	6,963
Consumer Direct—appointment of PR agency	174,640
DTI Renewable Energy PR 2005/06	137,080
PR support for ACAS DVD	3,645
SBS Enterprising Britain PR	76,240
SBS Interim PR activity	105,786
Total 2005/06	594,495
2006/07 DTI Campaigns	
Business Link PR 2006/07	179,113
DTI Gap Analysis	9,071
DTI Renewable Energy PR 2006/07	131,582
SBS Enterprising Britain PR	163,642
Total 2006/07	483,408
2007/08 DTI/BERR Campaigns	
Enterprising Britain	172,630.27
Renewable energy	109,326.38
Employing People	30,030
Queen's Awards	17,254.61
Fireworks safety	15,000
Consumer Protection Regulations	73,000
Total 2007/08	417,232.26
2008/09 BERR Campaigns	
Employing People	165,596.25
Consumer Protection Regulations	112,142.03
Flexible working	24,733.63
Queen's Awards	19,875

	Total amount (£)
Renewable Energy	2,506.54
Total 2008/09 BERR	324,853.45
2008/09 DIUS Campaigns	
Student Finance and Employability	271,610.57
Science (So What? So Everything)	225,000
FE Colleges Week	199,760.31
Climate Change	49,130
Academic Freedom Debates	115,337.50
Total 2008/09 DIUS	860,838.38
2009/10 BIS campaigns (including BERR and DIUS)	
Pay and Work Rights	90,000
Family Rights (paternity)	36,000
Consumer Tipping Awareness	31,000
Employing People	219,000
Student Finance and Employability	146,460.86
Science (So What? So Everything)	738,956
Iawards	124,794.49
Employee Engagement	465,862.97
Further Education Colleges Week	170,852.20
Climate Change	11,276
Media Audit	4,000
Informal Adult Learning	208,949
Academic Freedom Debates	35,896.50
Total 2009/10	2,283,048.02

The total spent on public surveys procured through the Central Office of Information (COI) is:

	Amount (£)
2005/06 DTI	
Consumer Direct	181,650
Renewable energy	23,375
Total	205,025
2006/07 DTI	
Renewable energy	14,000
Public attitudes to science research	29,800
Total	43,800
2007/08 DTI/BERR	
Omnibus on nuclear attitudes	7,970
Consumer Protection	34,700
Public attitudes to science research	68,100
Pregnancy leaflet awareness	17,100
Renewable energy	14,600
Total	142,470
2008/09 BERR and DIUS	
Informal Adult Learning deliberative	59,357
Informal Adult Learning consultation analysis	9,420
Informal Adult Learning mapping	40,000
Evaluation of Adult Learners Week helpline 2008	14,750
Attitudes to Higher Education	11,390
Consumer Rights omnibus research	29,900
Consumer Rights creative development	12,000
Doorstep selling consumer and business research	22,800
Employment Guidance administrative burdens research	178,750
Employment Guidance tracking	79,200
DIUS Business users web research	5,500
Higher Education brand and student finance	59,840
Act on CO2 Students omnibus	5,550
Act on CO2 Students omnibus qualitative research	9,140
Student Finance creative research	42,950
Student Finance tracking	136,100
Student Support customer satisfaction England	64,700
Employing People creative testing	12,500
Employing People stakeholder analysis	12,000
National Minimum Wage tracking 2008/9	54,100
Renewable energy consultation analysis	67,000
Nuclear Stakeholder report	30,000
Science branding line	27,610
Directgov Education and Learning Franchise	8,600
Vulnerable Workers campaign creative development	17,800
Vulnerable Workers campaign tracking	55,150
Vulnerable workers hotline proposition development	50,050
Evaluation of public deliberative dialogue	15,000
Social Media	28,335
Internships	9,600
Higher Education and Apprenticeships	85,000
Attitudes to Skills Accounts	50,850
Stakeholder research	65,580
Total	1,370,522
2009/10 BERR and DIUS	
Consumer Rights tracking study	32,100
Summary report on Consumer Rights omnibus	400
Public perception tracking 2009	19,550
Public perceptions tracker	38,475
Vulnerable Workers helpline campaign pitch research	25,550
Vulnerable Workers helpline tracking	75,400
Vulnerable workers helpline creative development research	25,750

	Amount (£)
Skills Accounts	36,600
Graduate Internship campaign tracker	11,525
Graduate Communications campaign	49,300
Vehicle Scrappage scheme	48,700
Employment Law advice	117,000
Graduate Talent Pool registered employer research	32,850
Science (So What? So Everything) campaign test	19,500
Consumer Tipping Awareness omnibus	5,785
Stakeholder surveys	75,250
Small Medium Enterprises stakeholder research	56,800
Total	670,535

Public relations contracts were awarded for national campaigns in England and Wales and cannot be broken down by region or city. Detailed information regarding the coverage of public opinion surveys is not readily available as the coverage of most of these surveys was not specific to any region.

EU Grants and Loans

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many cases were brought by the European Commission in respect of financial corrections and alleged irregularities in the disbursement of funds from the European Regional Development Fund for 2000 to 2006; how many such cases are still open; and how many such cases related to disputes over regulations on publicity for funding. [17709]

Mr Prisk: In the 2000-06 programme perspective, three cases have been brought against UK authorities by the European Commission in respect of alleged irregular expenditure in ERDF programmes. None of these cases involved a dispute over the publicity regulations. One case is still open and under discussion between the UK authorities concerned and the European Commission.

Further Education

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many general further education colleges will be affected by the decision to reclassify them as a part of central Government. [18239]

Mr Hayes: There are 251 further education colleges, incorporated under the Further and Higher Education Act 1992, which are affected by the Office of National Statistics' decision to classify them as central Government for the purpose of the national accounts.

Higher Education: Admissions

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of student places in universities in *(a)* England and *(b)* the North East in academic years (i) 2009-10, (ii) 2010-11 and (iii) 2011-12. [17750]

Mr Willetts: Information on the number of enrolments in higher education institutions (HEIs) in England is collected by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA). Final figures on enrolments in England and the North East in 2009/10 will not be available until January 2011. Information for 2008/09 is given in the following table:

UK and EU domiciled enrolments in HEIs in England and the North East 2008/09

	England	*North East*
Postgraduate	333,845	16,255
Undergraduate	1,460,095	83,965
Total	1,793,945	100,220

Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest five.
Source:
HESA

In 2008-09 the Government funded 1,160,000 full-time equivalent places and an additional 10,000 additional student numbers in 2009-10. The coalition Government are funding 1,190,000 full-time equivalent places in 2010-11, including the 10,000 places announced as part of the University Modernisation Fund. No funding decisions have been made for 2011-12; these will take place following the Spending Review. Planned funded student numbers are not available at a regional level.

Higher Education: Research

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of bibliometric measures in analysing the research performance of universities. [17897]

Mr Willetts: While it is acknowledged to be imperfect, bibliometric evidence is an important indicator of universities' research performance, and is well correlated, albeit imperfectly, with the quality of the research assessed. Underpinning the usefulness of bibliometric data are its characteristics of being readily available and quantifiable, which allows for timely and objective measurement and facilitates comparisons of national and international research performance.

BIS undertakes a regular assessment of the Performance of the UK Research Base based upon Bibliometrics. The most recent of which, "The International Comparative Performance of the UK Research Base", was published in 2009:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/corporate/migratedD/publications/I/ICPRUK09v1_4

Highlights from this assessment revealed that the UK maintains a remarkably strong research base, remaining the most productive country in the G8 as measured by citations per pound spent and second only to the USA in its share of highly cited papers.

According to this report, bibliometrics have an important role in indexing research performance—despite suffering from some limitations, and while:

> 'the defects of bibliometric evidence are familiar' ...
>
> 'bibliometrics are likely to be of increasing importance'

in the next few years.

Local Enterprise Partnerships: Regional Development Agencies

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what representations he has received from trade unions on the transfer to local enterprise partnerships of employees from regional development agencies. [17968]

Mr Prisk: I have received a letter, dated 15 September, from the Public and Commercial Services Union regarding regional co-ordination of strategy for economic regeneration and the matter of future employment opportunities and redundancy arrangements for RDA staff.

Medicine: Voluntary Organisations

Mrs Glindon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment his Department has made of the contribution to *(a)* the economy and *(b)* university research of funding for medical research from charitable sources since 2005. [17991]

Mr Willetts: The Government welcome the valuable contribution from charities to medical research in the UK. The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has not carried out any specific analysis of the contribution of funding for medical research from charitable sources to the economy or university research since 2005. However, the Medical Research Council was a sponsor of the document "Medical Research: What's it worth?" which was published by RAND Europe in November 2008

http://www.brunel.ac.uk/385/other/
TAP825EconomicBenefitsReportFULLWeb.pdf

This analysed the economic impact of both public and charitable funding. It demonstrated that every pound invested in cardiovascular research over the period of the study resulted in a benefit to GDP of 39 pence per year in perpetuity.

Public Bodies: Engineering

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the statement of 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 505-06, on public bodies reform, whether *(a)* the Engineering Construction Industry Training Board and *(b)* the Construction Industry Training Board will retain its statutory power to raise training levies on the engineering industry following transfer to the private sector. [18178]

Mr Hayes: The coalition Government are committed to review public bodies, with the aim of increasing accountability for actions carried out on behalf of the state. For the Industry Training Boards (ITBs) we are reviewing the scope for a statutory levy to be operated by a private sector organisation. It is right that Government look at the options for increasing the flexibilities and freedoms under which employers can invest in training. If we cannot find a way of moving ITBs to the private sector, without compromising their ability to raise a statutory levy, then we can still explore ways to further encourage efficiency and flexibility.

Regulation

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects his Department's review of new regulations to be concluded; and if he will make a statement. [17795]

Mr Prisk: In the Budget the Government announced plans for reducing the regulatory burdens on business, including the introduction of a one-in-one-out system for new regulations and a fundamental review of all regulation inherited from the previous Government scheduled for introduction over the coming year. These regulations will not be implemented until they have been reviewed and re-agreed by the Reducing Regulation Cabinet Committee.

This review is on-going and an announcement will be made once it has been completed.

Students: Loans

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what percentage of graduates are making repayments on their student loans to the Student Loans Company *(a)* one, *(b)* five and *(c)* 10 years after completing university. [17760]

Mr Willetts: As student loans mature, increasing numbers of borrowers fully repay. For example by April 2010 39% of the 2000 cohort and 16% of the 2004 cohort had fully repaid. The table shows the proportion of those who remain liable to repay who made repayments during the relevant tax year. Borrowers with fluctuating earnings may make repayments in some years and not others, so for example some of those not repaying in the fifth year after leaving higher education may have made repayments in previous years.

Borrowers are not required to make repayments when they are earning less than £15,000 per year. Repayments are collected through the tax system, so generally borrowers cannot default.

Percentage of student loan borrowers making repayments[1]

Repayment cohort[2]	*Percentage repaying in first tax year after leaving higher education*	*Percentage repaying in fifth tax year after leaving higher education*
2000	34	42
2001	37	46
2002	45	59
2003	51	64
2004	53	66
2005	46	
2006	46	
2007	47	
2008	51	

[1] The table covers borrowers who received loans as English domiciled students studying in the UK or as EU students studying in England. It shows borrowers making repayments in the relevant tax year as a percentage of borrowers with an outstanding balance at the start of that tax year. It covers repayments known by SLC at 30 April 2010.

[2] Borrowers are placed in a repayment cohort according to when they first became liable to repay, which is in the April after they graduated or otherwise left their course.

Source:

Student Loans Company

Income contingent loans were introduced in 1998 and the first repayments were made in 2000. As 2000 is the first repayment cohort, consistent separate data for those who left higher education after 10 years are not yet available. Figures relate to student loan borrowers regardless of whether they are graduates or not.

The first two repayment cohorts are atypical as they only comprise borrowers on short courses and those who left university before completing their courses. The first repayment cohort containing graduates from three year courses is the 2002 cohort.

From April 2005 the earnings threshold at which borrowers are required to make repayments was raised from £10,000 to £15,000. This explains the lower percentage repaying in the first year from the 2005 cohort onwards.

HEALTH

Arthritis

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department plans to take to ensure that people with rheumatoid arthritis are given a personalised care plan; and who will be responsible for developing that plan with the patient. [16995]

Paul Burstow: Personalised care planning aims to put people at the centre of decisions about their care and should be offered to all people with long-term conditions including those living with rheumatoid arthritis. Care plans should be developed collaboratively with the individual and the health and social care professionals with whom they have regular contact. In most cases there will be a lead professional who will initiate the process, for example a general practitioner, a practice nurse, a specialist nurse, a social care worker or an allied health professional. Other professionals involved in the person's care should also be aware that they have a care plan and input as necessary.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent assessment he has made of regional variations in the usage of treatments approved by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence for rheumatoid arthritis; and if he will make a statement; [16996]

(2) what assessment he has made of the implementation of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence Clinical Guideline 79 for rheumatoid arthritis in England. [17328]

Paul Burstow: The Department has not made any specific assessment of either regional variations in the availability of treatments for rheumatoid arthritis approved by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) or of the implementation of clinical guideline 79 issued by NICE for rheumatoid arthritis.

It is the responsibility of national health service bodies to implement NICE guidance and NICE publishes a number of implementation tools alongside its guidance to help facilitate this.

Blood: Contamination

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department plans to screen blood already stored in blood banks for the xenotropic murine leukemia virus-related virus. [17574]

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department plans to remove from storage blood donated by persons diagnosed with myalgic encephalomyelitis. [17906]

Anne Milton: There are no plans to screen blood already stored in blood banks for the xenotropic murine leukemia virus-related virus (XMRV) or to remove from storage blood donated by persons diagnosed with myalgic encephalomyelitis.

A recent study in the United States (of America) reported that XMRV has been detected in a number of chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS)/myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME) sufferers. CFS/ME sufferers can currently give blood when they are well. These data have not been replicated in Europe. An expert subgroup of National Expert Panel for New and Emerging Infections (NEPNEI) met in May 2010, to consider all available evidence about XMRV and conduct a risk assessment. The subgroup concluded that XMRV can infect humans but there is currently no evidence that it causes human disease and that on the evidence before the group, no public health action is required at this time. Since the subgroup meeting in May there has been no new scientific evidence that would change the conclusions of the subgroup. In July 2010, the Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs (SaBTO), similarly did not recommend further measures at present. Both groups will continue to monitor the situation.

However, from 1 November 2010, CFS/ME sufferers will no longer be able to donate blood. The UK Blood Services recognised that exclusion from donation by people with ME/CFS needed to be brought in line with that from other relapsing conditions for the protection of the donor, and not because of potential infection risks.

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the implications for *(a)* organ donation and *(b)* people with myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME) who are undergoing surgery of the ban on people with ME from donating blood. [17575]

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the evidential basis was for his Department's decision to cease to accept blood donations from persons diagnosed with myalgic encephalomyelitis; and if he will make a statement. [17905]

Anne Milton: The change to the United Kingdom Blood Services donor selection guidelines (which comes into force on 1 November 2010) to permanently exclude from blood donation, anyone who reports that they have had chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS)/myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME), is being made purely on the grounds of donor safety, as CFS/ME is a relapsing condition. It brings practice for CFS/ME into line with other relapsing conditions or neurological conditions of unknown origin, to avoid the potential for blood donation to adversely affect the donor.

The change was not made because of a perceived risk to recipients of blood from CFS/ME patients and therefore does not affect the safety of organ donations and CFS/ME patients undergoing surgery.

The Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs on the basis of current evidence does not recommend further measures at present but wishes to continue to monitor the situation.

Dementia: Drugs

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of progress in achieving his Department's commitment to reduce the prescribing of anti-psychotic drugs to people diagnosed with dementia by two thirds in two years. [17661]

Paul Burstow: Professor Alistair Burns, the National Clinical Director for Dementia, is leading the work to reduce the use of anti-psychotics in all settings. As a priority, the NHS Information Centre is undertaking an audit for the Department on the prescribing of anti-psychotics for people with dementia. The aim remains to achieve overall a two-thirds reduction in the level of prescription over a period of two years from establishing a baseline position. There is emerging evidence from the audit that there has been a reduction in use of these drugs since last year. These data are being validated.

Dental Services

Stephen Gilbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to implement the proposals on the engagement of consultants in dental public health and dental practice advisers in the development of new arrangements for NHS dentistry as referred to in his Department's White Paper on 'Equity and excellence: liberating the NHS'. [18368]

Mr Simon Burns: The White Paper 'Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS' refers to creation of a NHS Commissioning Board and a new public health service, to integrate and streamline existing health improvement. The NHS Commissioning Board will take on responsibility for commissioning national health service primary dental services, while the primary care trusts' responsibilities for local health improvement will transfer to local authorities. Local authorities will employ the director of public health jointly appointed with the public health service. To discharge their functions and responsibilities, both the public health service in local authorities and dental service commissioners will need appropriate advice and input from dental public health consultants, dental practice advisers and their teams, working with local clinicians.

Departmental Contracts

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the monetary value is of contracts his Department has awarded to each *(a)* management consultancy and *(b)* IT company since 7 May 2010. [16182]

Mr Simon Burns: The information is contained in the following tables:

Monetary value of contracts awarded by the Department to management consultancy companies from 7 May 2010 to 22 September 2010

Company	*Value of contracts (£)*
Amtec Consulting plc	2,060
Gardiner and Theobald	10,480
Infel	30,250
Inventures Ltd	19,740
KPMG	6[illegible],000
Loughborough University	32,990
Malcolm Hutchinson Associates Ltd	4,950
McKinsey and Co Inc UK	9,000
Methods Consulting Ltd	172,911
Moorhouse Consulting	110,000
Mott MacDonald Ltd	6,875
PA Consulting Group Ltd	429,360
PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP	1,675
Quality Business Management Ltd	170,835
Quo Imus Ltd	34,630
2020 Delivery	13,000

Monetary value of contracts awarded by the Department to information technology companies from 7 May 2010 to 22 September 2010

Company	*Value of contracts (£)*
Ability Net	554
CSC Computer Sciences Ltd	565
Gap Internet Communications	2,048
Oracle	68,040
Parallel Interactive Media	21,900
Sapient Ltd	8,128
SAS Software Ltd	53,420
Simplisys Ltd	10,311
SPSS (UK) Ltd	5,515

Departmental Grants

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what grants his Department has made to *(a)* Brook, *(b)* the fpa and former Family Planning Association, *(c)* Marie Stopes International, *(d)* the British Pregnancy Advisory Service, *(e)* Education for Choice and *(f)* the Terrence Higgins Trust in each of the last three years; how much grant funding is planned for each body in the next two years; what the (i) monetary value and (ii) purpose of each such grant is; and if he will make a statement. [17858]

Anne Milton: The Department does not provide grant funding to Marie Stopes International, or the British Pregnancy Advisory Service. The amount of grant funding and purpose of each grant for the other organisations requested is shown in the following table:

Department of Health Section 64/Third Sector Investment Programme (TSIP) 2009-12

£

Name of organisation	*Purpose of grant*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*	*2011-12*[1]	*2012-13*[1]
Brook	Section 64 Core (infrastructure support)	86,000	0	0	0	0

Department of Health Section 64/Third Sector Investment Programme (TSIP) 2009-12

Name of organisation	*Purpose of grant*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*	*2011-12*[1]	£ *2012-13*[1]
Brook	Third Sector Investment Programme Development of Regional Capacity Project	0	138,006	106,000	84,800	0
fpa	Section 64 Core (infrastructure support)	130,000	0	0	0	0
fpa	Third Sector Investment Programme Sustainable Futures Project	0	140,000	105,000	70,000	0
Terrence Higgins Trust	Section 64 Core (infrastructure support)	220,000	0	0	0	0
Terrence Higgins Trust	Third Sector Investment Programme Sustainable Futures Project	0	154,000	121,000	80,000	0
Terence Higgins Trust	Third Sector Investment Programme National HIV Long Term Conditions Project	0	0	75,000	75,000	75,000
Education for Choice	Third Sector Investment Programme promoting and supporting a continuum of care around pregnancy pathways for young people, project	0	27,500	27,500	27,500	0

[1] All awards from April 2011 are subject to the outcome of the spending review.

General Practitioners: Buildings

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what account he plans to take of the *(a)* age and *(b)* size of GP-owned premises in his proposals for the future funding of such premises. [18207]

Mr Simon Burns: Primary care trusts currently have responsibility for managing the delivery of general practitioner services, including taking account of the age, size and suitability of premises from which general practitioners (GPs) make their services available to patients. The arrangements for reimbursement of GP premises costs are set out in "The NHS Premises Costs Directions 2004", which has already been placed in the Library. Following the establishment of the NHS Commissioning Board, it will take on responsibility for contracting with GPs and for funding those arrangements under the GP contract arrangements applying at that time.

Health Services: Brighton

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what financial support his Department has provided to *(a)* Brighton and Hove City Council and *(b)* NHS services in Brighton and Hove for the support of carers in the latest period for which figures are available; [18173]

(2) what assessment he has made of the role *(a)* the Carers Centre for Brighton and Hove and *(b)* other voluntary organisations have in supporting carers. [18174]

Paul Burstow: Brighton and Hove city council received £1.102 million in 2008-09, £1.167 million in 2009-10 and £1.132 million in 2010-11 for the carers element of their area based grant.

The previous Government made £150 million available within primary care trust allocations in 2009-11 (£50 million in 2009-10 and £100 million in 2010-11) to enable them to provide breaks for carers. The money was not ring-fenced and no mechanisms were put in place to ensure that the money was spent on carers.

No assessment has been made of the role that the Carers Centre for Brighton and Hove, or other voluntary organisations, have in supporting carers.

Maternity Services

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the extent to which each strategic health authority has fulfilled the requirements of its local maternity workforce plan *(a)* in general and *(b)* in respect of the size of the midwifery workforce. [17590]

Anne Milton: Strategic health authorities (SHAs) are considering the number of maternity staff needed to deliver safe maternity services and extend choice.

A national assessment will be made as part of the operating framework assurance process.

The following table outlines the midwifery workforce in each SHA for each of the last three years.

Midwives in England

SHA	*2007*	*2008*	*Headcount* *2009*
North East	1,287	1,331	1,382
North West	4,001	3,892	3,855
Yorks and Humber	2,446	2,472	2,565
East Midlands	1,744	1,771	1,877
West Midlands	2,861	2,850	2,918
East of England	2,406	2,476	2,560
London	4,401	4,785	4,866
South East Coast	1,819	1,915	2,028
South Central	1,677	1,735	1,783

Midwives in England

SHA	2007	2008	Headcount 2009
South West	2,427	2,437	2,617

Source:
NHS Information Centre

The following table shows the total number of obstetricians and gynaecologists in each SHA for each of the last three years.

England

SHA	2007	2008	Headcount 2009
North East	252	270	277
North West	689	731	751
Yorks and Humber	531	499	528
East Midlands	365	381	406
West Midlands	467	486	519
East of England	433	470	476
London	1,087	1,155	1,204
South East Coast	358	371	414
South Central	393	427	416
South West	408	439	449

Source:
NHS Information centre

Non-departmental Public Bodies

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the statement of 14 October 2010, *Official Report,* columns 505-06, on public bodies reform, how many staff are employed by the Human Genetics Commission; how many such staff will be transferred to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* new bodies; how many such staff will be made redundant; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of redundancy payments for these staff. [18144]

Anne Milton: The Human Genetics Commission does not employ staff and therefore there will be no redundancies or associated redundancy costs. The secretariat for the Human Genetics Commission has been provided by departmental officials and staff seconded to the Department. A secretariat function will continue to be provided for the reconstituted committee of experts.

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the statement of 14 October 2010, *Official Report,* columns 505-06, on public bodies reform, how many staff are employed by the Advisory Committee on Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare Associated Infection; how many such staff will be transferred to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* new bodies; how many such staff will be made redundant; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of redundancy payments for these staff. [18147]

Anne Milton: The Advisory Committee on Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare Associated Infection does not employ staff, therefore there will be no redundancies or associated redundancy costs. The secretariat for the committee is provided by the Health Protection Agency. A secretariat function will continue to be provided for the reconstituted committee of experts.

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the statement of 14 October 2010, *Official Report,* columns 505-06, on public bodies reform, how many staff are employed by the Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens; how many such staff will be transferred to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* new bodies; how many such staff will be made redundant; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of redundancy payments for these staff. [18148]

Anne Milton: The Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens does not employ staff, therefore there will be no redundancies or associated redundancy costs. The secretariat for the committee is provided by the Health Protection Agency. A secretariat function will continue to be provided for the reconstituted committee of experts.

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the statement of 14 October 2010, *Official Report,* columns 505-06, on public bodies reform, what the functions of the Health Protection Agency are; which of these functions are to be retained; and which bodies he proposes to have responsibility for fulfilling these functions. [18297]

Anne Milton: The functions of the Health Protection Agency are to protect the public from threats to their health from infectious diseases and environmental hazards. All of the Health Protection Agency's functions will be retained. The Health Protection Agency will be abolished as a statutory organisation and its functions will be transferred to the new public health service.

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the statement of 14 October 2010, *Official Report,* columns 505-06, on public bodies reform, what the functions of the Gene Therapy Advisory Committee are; which of these functions are to be retained; and which bodies he proposes to have responsibility for fulfilling these functions. [18298]

Anne Milton: The Gene Therapy Advisory Committee (GTAC) oversees the ethical conduct of stem cell and gene therapy clinical trials in the United Kingdom and previously provided advice to Ministers on gene and stem cell therapies.

Following the advisory non-departmental public bodies (ANDPBs) review it has been decided that GTAC no longer needs to report and provide advice directly to Ministers. The review concluded that its Research Ethics Committee statutory functions would be transferred to the National Research Ethics Service.

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the statement of 14 October 2010, *Official Report,* columns 505-06, on public bodies reform, what the functions of the Independent Advisory Group on Sexual Health and HIV are; which of these functions are to be retained; and which bodies he proposes to have responsibility for fulfilling these functions. [18299]

Anne Milton: The remit of the Independent Advisory Group on Sexual Health and HIV is to provide advice and monitor progress on the implementation of the National Strategy for Sexual Health and HIV published in 2001, a copy of which has already been placed in the Library. The group is to be abolished and replaced by a stakeholder advisory group on sexual health. This group will provide advice to departmental officials rather than direct to Ministers. Terms of reference for the group have yet to be agreed.

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the statement of 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 505-06, on public bodies reform, (1) how many staff are employed by the Committee on Medical Effects of Air Pollutants; how many such staff will be transferred to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* new bodies; how many such staff will be made redundant; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of redundancy payments for these staff; [18143]

(2) how many staff are employed by the Committee on Carcinogenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment; how many such staff will be transferred to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* new bodies; how many such staff will be made redundant; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of redundancy payments for these staff; [18153]

(3) how many staff are employed by the Committee on Mutagenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment; how many such staff will be transferred to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* new bodies; how many such staff will be made redundant; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of redundancy payments for these staff. [18155]

Anne Milton: The Committee on Mutagenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment, the Committee on the Medical Effects of Air Pollutants and the Committee on Carcinogenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment do not employ staff, therefore there will be no redundancies or associated redundancy costs. The secretariats for the committees are provided by the Health Protection Agency. A secretariat function will continue to be provided for the reconstituted committees of experts.

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the statement of 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 505-06, on public bodies reform, how many staff are employed by the Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs; how many such staff will be transferred to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* new bodies; how many such staff will be made redundant; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of redundancy payments for these staff. [18149]

Anne Milton: The Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs does not employ staff, therefore there will be no redundancies or associated redundancy costs. The secretariat for the committee is provided by the Department. A secretariat function will continue to be provided for the reconstituted committee of experts.

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the statement of 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 505-06, on public bodies reform, how many staff are employed by the Advisory Group on Hepatitis; how many such staff will be transferred to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* new bodies; how many such staff will be made redundant; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of redundancy payments for these staff. [18150]

Anne Milton: The Advisory Group on Hepatitis do not employ staff, therefore there will be no redundancies or associated redundancy costs. The secretariat for the committee is provided by the Health Protection Agency. A secretariat function will continue to be provided for the reconstituted committee of experts.

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the statement of 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 505-06, on public bodies reform, how many staff are employed by the Alcohol Education and Research Council; how many such staff will be transferred to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* new bodies; how many such staff will be made redundant; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of redundancy payments for these staff. [18151]

Anne Milton: The Alcohol Education Research Council (AERC) employs three staff.

The reforms to the AERC were announced in the report of the arm's length bodies review, published in July 2010. As set out in the review, the AERC will be abolished as a non-departmental public body and remain as a charity.

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the statement of 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 505-06, on public bodies reform, how many staff are employed by the Appointments Commission; how many such staff will be transferred to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* new bodies; how many such staff will be made redundant; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of redundancy payments for these staff. [18152]

Mr Simon Burns: The Appointments Commission currently employs 54 members of staff. It is not yet clear how many, if any, staff will be transferred to the Department or another Government organisation. It is anticipated that the number of staff will reduce by approximately half in March 2011, with all remaining staff being made redundant in March 2012, with the exception of any moving to another employer.

It is estimated that redundancy payments may total between £1.75 million and £1.82 million over the two-stage redundancy period.

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the statement of 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 505-06, on public bodies reform, how many staff are employed by the Committee on Medical Aspects of Radiation in the Environment; how many such staff will be transferred to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* new bodies; how many such staff will be made redundant; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of redundancy payments for these staff. [18154]

Anne Milton: The Committee on Medical Aspects of Radiation in the Environment does not employ staff, therefore there will be no redundancies or associated redundancy costs arising from its reconstitution as a

Departmental Committee of Experts. The secretariat for the committee is currently provided by the Health Protection Agency. A secretariat function will continue to be provided for the reconstituted committee.

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the statement of 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 505-06, on public bodies reform, how many staff are employed by the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence; how many such staff will be transferred to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* new bodies; how many such staff will be made redundant; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of redundancy payments for these staff. [18157]

Anne Milton: The reforms to the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence were announced in the report of the arm's length bodies review, published in July 2010. During 2009-10, the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence employed an average of 18.7 full-time and part-time staff, including temporary staff (annual report and accounts 2009-10). We do not expect that any staff will be transferred out of the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence or made redundant as a result of these reforms.

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the statement of 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 505-06, on public bodies reform, how many staff are employed by the Expert Advisory Group on AIDS; how many such staff will be transferred to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* new bodies; how many such staff will be made redundant; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of redundancy payments for these staff. [18158]

Anne Milton: The Expert Advisory Group on AIDS does not employ staff, therefore there will be no redundancies or associated redundancy costs. The secretariat for the committee is provided by the Health Protection Agency. A secretariat function will continue to be provided for the reconstituted committee of experts.

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the statement of 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 505-06, on public bodies reform, how many staff are employed by the Gene Therapy Advisory Committee; how many such staff will be transferred to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* new bodies; how many such staff will be made redundant; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of redundancy payments for these staff. [18159]

Anne Milton: The Gene Therapy Advisory Committee (GTAC) does not employee any staff, therefore there will be no redundancies or associated redundancy costs. One post in the secretariat supporting GTAC was transferred from the Department to the National Research Ethics Service.

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the statement of 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 505-06, on public bodies reform, how many staff are employed by the Genetics and Insurance Committee; how many such staff will be transferred to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* new bodies; how many such staff will be made redundant; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of redundancy payments for these staff. [18161]

Anne Milton: The Department's intention to abolish the Genetics and Insurance Committee was announced in 2009 by the previous Government. The committee has not met since October 2008. The committee did not employ staff and therefore there were no redundancies or associated redundancy costs. The Genetics and Insurance Committee secretariat was provided by departmental officials.

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the statement of 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 505-06, on public bodies reform, how many staff are employed by the Health Protection Agency; how many such staff will be transferred to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* new bodies; how many such staff will be made redundant; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of redundancy payments for these staff. [18162]

Anne Milton: The reforms to the Health Protection Agency were announced in the report of the arm's-length bodies review, published in July 2010. As at 31 March 2010, the Health Protection Agency employed 3,791 staff (average number of full-time equivalent staff). Further work is required to plan for implementation of the reforms.

The Department is working with individual arm's length bodies to support delivery of the transitional changes required. It is too early at this stage to set out what the full impact of the review will be in terms of impact on staff and the costs of redundancies.

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the statement of 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 505-06, on public bodies reform, how many staff are employed by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority; how many such staff will be transferred to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* new bodies; how many such staff will be made redundant; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of redundancy payments for these staff. [18164]

Anne Milton: The reforms to the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority were announced in the report of the Department's arm's length bodies review, published in July 2010. As of 13 October 2010 there were 83 staff in post. Further work is required to plan for implementation of the reforms before estimates of staff transfers and redundancies can be made and of the costs involved.

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the statement of 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 505-06, on public bodies reform, how many staff are employed by the Human Tissue Authority; how many such staff will be transferred to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* new bodies; how many such staff will be made redundant; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of redundancy payments for these staff. [18165]

Anne Milton: The reforms to the Human Tissue Authority (HTA) were announced in the report of the Department's arm's length bodies review, published in July 2010. The HTA has a staffing complement of 67 full-time equivalent members of staff. As of 15 October 2010, there were 45 staff in post. Further work is required to plan for implementation of the reforms before estimates of staff transfers and redundancies can be made and of the costs involved.

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the statement of 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 505-06, on public bodies reform, how many staff are employed by the Independent Advisory Group on Sexual Health and HIV; how many such staff will be transferred to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* new bodies; how many such staff will be made redundant; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of redundancy payments for these staff. [18166]

Anne Milton: The Independent Advisory Group on Sexual Health and HIV does not employ staff and therefore there will be no staff transfers either to the Department or to the new Stakeholder Advisory Group. Any costs associated with the closure of the Independent Advisory Group are currently being assessed.

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the statement of 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 505-06, on public bodies reform, how many staff are employed by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisations; how many such staff will be transferred to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* new bodies; how many such staff will be made redundant; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of redundancy payments for these staff. [18169]

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the statement of 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 505-06, on public bodies reform, what the functions of the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisations are; which of these functions are to be retained; and which bodies he proposes to have responsibility for fulfilling these functions. [18313]

Anne Milton: The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) is tasked with advising Government on matters relating to the provision of vaccination and immunisation services. On 14 October it was announced that the JCVI will no longer be classified by the Cabinet Office as an advisory non-departmental public body. The function of the JCVI will remain unchanged, following its reconstitution into a Department/public health service committee of experts. None of the JCVI's functions will be transferred to other bodies.

The JCVI does not employ staff, therefore there will be no redundancies or associated redundancy costs. The secretariat for the committee is provided by the Department. A secretariat function will continue to be provided for the reconstituted committee of experts.

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the statement of 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 505-06, on public bodies reform, what the functions of the Genetics and Insurance Committee are; which of these functions are to be retained; and which bodies he proposes to have responsibility for fulfilling these functions. [18293]

Anne Milton: The Department's intention to abolish the Genetics and Insurance Committee (GAIC) was announced in 2009. The Committee last met in October 2008. The Committee's functions were:

to develop and publish criteria for the evaluation of specific genetic tests, their application to particular conditions and their reliability and relevance to particular types of insurance;

to evaluate particular tests against those criteria and to bring to public knowledge its findings;

to report to Health, Treasury, and Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Ministers on proposals received by GAIC from insurance providers and the subsequent level of compliance by the industry with the recommendations of GAIC;

to provide independent wide ranging oversight of how insurers are using genetic tests, specifically:

to provide independent scrutiny of compliance with the Association of British Insurers (ABI) Code of Practice and the terms of the concordat and moratorium agreed in 2005 on the use of genetic test results by insurance companies;

to deal with complaints from insurance applicants about the way an insurance company has dealt with their application under the moratorium, where such complaints have not been resolved to the satisfaction of the applicant by either their insurance company in the first instance or by the ABI; and

to report annually to Health, Treasury, and DTI Ministers on compliance by insurers with the ABI Code of Practice, the concordat and the moratorium.

The GAIC's functions were transferred to a subgroup of the Human Genetics Commission—the Monitoring Group for Genetics and Insurance. Approval of genetic tests for use in insurance will be carried out by an ad-hoc Genetics and Insurance Applications Panel. Proposals relating to the exact remit and constitution of the new arrangements are currently being developed.

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the statement of 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 505-06, on public bodies reform, what the functions of the Expert Advisory Group on Aids are; which of these functions are to be retained; and which bodies he proposes to have responsibility for fulfilling these functions. [18294]

Anne Milton: The function of the Expert Advisory Group on AIDS is to provide advice on such matters relating to HIV/AIDS as may be referred to it by the Chief Medical Officers of the Health Departments of the United Kingdom.

The function of the Expert Advisory Group on AIDS will remain unchanged, following its reconstitution into a Departmental/Public Health Service Committee of Experts.

Once the change is enacted the Expert Advisory Group on AIDS will continue to be responsible for the function but as a Departmental/Public Health Service Committee of Experts.

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the statement of 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 505-06, on public bodies reform, what the functions of the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence are; which of these functions are to be retained; and which bodies he proposes to have responsibility for fulfilling these functions. [18296]

Anne Milton: The functions of the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence are set out in the National Health Service Reform and Health Care Professions Act 2002 (as amended). All of the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence's current functions are to be retained and we propose to extend its remit to enable it to set standards for and to quality assure voluntary registers of health and social care workers.

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the statement of 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 505-06, on public bodies reform, what the functions of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority are; which of these functions are to be retained; and which bodies he proposes to have responsibility for fulfilling these functions. [18301]

Anne Milton: As set out in the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990, as amended, (the 1990 Act) the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority's statutory functions are:

the licensing and monitoring of establishments: (i) providing treatments involving the creation of embryos outside the body and treatment involving the use of donated gametes or embryos, (ii) establishments providing fertility related services involving the donation, procurement, testing, processing, preservation, storage or distribution of gametes and embryos and (iii) centres carrying out research involving the use of human embryos;

to keep under review information about embryos, the subsequent development of embryos and the provision of treatment services and other activities governed by the 1990 Act, giving advice to the Secretary of State for Health on these matters if asked to do so;

to publicise the services it provides to the public and those provided by licence holders;

to provide advice and information to licensed establishments, patients and gamete/embryo donors;

to maintain a statement of the general principles it considers should be followed in carrying out activities under the 1990 Act and any functions related to those activities;

to maintain and promote compliance with a code of practice giving licensed establishments guidance on the proper conduct of licensed activities; and

to maintain a register of all licensed treatment cycles carried out in the United Kingdom, with details of donors, patients and any resulting offspring and provide them with information as requested.

As indicated in the report of the Department's arm's length bodies review, published on 26 July 2010, it is proposed that these functions will be transferred to other bodies by the end of the current Parliament.

We will examine in detail the practicalities and legal implications of how to divide the functions between the Care Quality Commission, any new research regulator and the Health and Social Care Information Centre.

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the statement of 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 505-06, on public bodies reform, what the functions of the Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs are; which of these functions are to be retained; and which bodies he proposes to have responsibility for fulfilling these functions. [18302]

Anne Milton: The Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs advises United Kingdom Health Departments on the most appropriate ways to ensure the safety of blood, cells, tissues and organs for transfusion/transplantation. Its remit includes providing advice on the microbiological safety of gametes and stem cells, in liaison with the relevant regulatory authorities. The Committee provides independent advice on risk management for UK Health Departments to consider.

The function of the Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs will remain unchanged, following its reconstitution into a Departmental Committee of Experts and will continue to be responsible for these functions.

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the statement of 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 505-06, on public bodies reform, what the functions of the Advisory Group on Hepatitis are; which of these functions are to be retained; and which bodies he proposes to have responsibility for fulfilling these functions. [18303]

Anne Milton: The function of the Advisory Group on Hepatitis is to advise the Chief Medical Officers in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland on appropriate policies for the prevention and control of viral hepatitis in the community and in health care settings, but excluding advice on the microbiological safety of blood and tissues for transplantation, and of health care equipment.

The function of the Advisory Group on Hepatitis will remain unchanged, following its reconstitution into a Departmental/Public Health Service Committee of Experts.

Once the change is enacted the Advisory Group on Hepatitis will continue to be responsible for the function but as a Departmental/Public Health Service Committee of Experts.

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) pursuant to the statement of 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 505-06, on public bodies reform, what the functions of the Committee on Mutagenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment are; which of these functions are to be retained; and which bodies he proposes to have responsibility for fulfilling these functions; [18307]

(2) pursuant to the statement of 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 505-06, on public bodies reform, what the functions of the Committee on the Medical Effects of Air Pollutants are; which of these functions are to be retained; and which bodies he proposes to have responsibility for fulfilling these functions; [18309]

(3) pursuant to the statement of 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 505-06, on public bodies reform, what the functions of the Committee on Carcinogenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment are; which of these functions are to be retained; and which bodies he proposes to have responsibility for fulfilling these functions. [18310]

Anne Milton: The function of the Committee on Mutagenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment (COM) and the Committee on Carcinogenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment (COC) is to provide advice to Government Departments and Agencies on the potential mutagenicity and carcinogenicity, respectively, of chemicals, from natural products to new synthetic chemicals used in pesticides or pharmaceuticals.

The function of the Committee on the Medical Effects of Air Pollutants (COMEAP) is to provide advice to Government Departments and Agencies on all matters concerning the potential toxicity and effects upon health of air pollutants. The functions of COM, COMEAP and COC will remain unchanged, following their reconstitution into departmental committees of experts. Once the change is effected COM, COMEAP and COC will continue to undertake their function but as departmental committees of experts.

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the statement of 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 505-06, on public bodies reform, what the functions of the Committee on Medical Aspects of Radiation in the Environment are; which of these functions are to be retained; and which bodies he proposes to have responsibility for fulfilling these functions. [18308]

Anne Milton: The functions of the Committee on Medical Aspects of Radiation in the Environment are to assess and advise Government and the devolved authorities on the health effects of natural and man-made radiation and to assess the adequacy of the available data and the need for further research. The functions of the Committee on Medical Aspects of Radiation in the Environment will remain unchanged, following its reconstitution as a departmental committee of experts.

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the statement of 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 505-06, on public bodies reform, what the functions of the Appointments Commission are; which of these functions are to be retained; and which bodies he proposes to have responsibility for fulfilling these functions. [18314]

Mr Simon Burns: The Appointments Commission is responsible, on behalf of the Secretary of State for Health, for appointing chairs and non-executive members of local national health service bodies and the majority of the Department's national bodies. The Appointments Commission also delivers a range of other supporting functions.

The majority of the Appointments Commission's work and functions will cease to exist in the future as there will be no local and fewer national public appointments. As part of the transition to abolition, the Department is currently working with the Appointments Commission on considering which functions may continue.

Remaining national appointments will be undertaken by the Department, in-line with other Government Departments.

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the statement of 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 505-06, on public bodies reform, what the functions of the Alcohol Education and Research Council are; which of these functions are to be retained; and which bodies he proposes to have responsibility for fulfilling these functions. [18315]

Anne Milton: The Alcohol Education and Research Council (AERC) was established as an Executive non-departmental public body via the Licensing (Alcohol Education and Research) Act 1981.

The AERC has charitable status and administers a fund of around £8 million to support research into the prevention of alcohol-related harm. The Department does not provide funding for this arm's length body.

As set out in the Department's report of the Arm's Length Bodies Review, the AERC will be abolished as a non-departmental public body and remain as a charity.

Respiratory Diseases

Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospital bed days were accounted for by patients with *(a)* chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and *(b)* all respiratory diseases in (i) Bolton South East constituency and (ii) England in the latest period for which figures are available. [18132]

Mr Simon Burns: The most recent 'National Statistics' certified Hospital Episode Statistics data are for 2008-09; the following numbers are only available at the level of Bolton Primary Care Trust (PCT), rather than Bolton South East constituency. For patients treated in Bolton PCT, regardless of place of residence, there were 6,079 bed days with a primary diagnosis of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) (defined as ICD-10 codes J40 to J44 inclusive). For patients resident in Bolton PCT, but treated anywhere in the English national health service, there were 4,808 bed days with a primary diagnosis of COPD. Overall, in the English NHS, there were 878,218 bed days for this primary diagnosis in 2008-09.

For patients with a primary diagnosis of respiratory disease (defined as ICD-10 codes J00 to J99 inclusive), there were 27,474 bed days for patients treated in Bolton PCT, or 23,141 bed days for patients resident in Bolton PCT. Overall, there were 4,249,216 bed days for these primary diagnoses in 2008-09.

Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospital admissions there were for *(a)* chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and *(b)* all respiratory diseases in (i) Bolton South East constituency and (ii) England in the latest period for which figures are available. [18133]

Mr Simon Burns: The most recent 'National Statistics' certified Hospital Episode Statistics data are for 2008-09; the following numbers are only available at the level of Bolton Primary Care Trust (PCT), rather than Bolton South East constituency. For patients treated in Bolton PCT, regardless of place of residence, there were 809 first admission episodes with a primary diagnosis of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) (defined as ICD-10 codes J40 to J44 inclusive). For patients resident in Bolton PCT, but treated anywhere in the English national health service, there were 651 first admission episodes with a primary diagnosis of COPD. Overall, in the English NHS, there were 119,317 first admission episodes for this primary diagnosis in 2008-09.

For patients with a primary diagnosis of respiratory disease (defined as ICD-10 codes J00 to J99 inclusive), there were 5,518 first admission episodes for patients treated in Bolton PCT, or 4,816 first admission episodes for patients resident in Bolton PCT. Overall, there were 757,003 first admission episodes for these primary diagnoses in 2008-09.

Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to include a lung function test within the NHS Health Check. [18135]

Mr Simon Burns: The purpose of the NHS Health Check programme is to identify an individual's risk of heart disease, stroke, kidney disease and diabetes. The tests used in the NHS Health Check are based on economic modelling undertaken by the Department to ensure it is clinically effective and cost-effective. We continue to keep the components of the NHS Health Check under review as new evidence emerges.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Children

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children aged *(a)* 11 and *(b)* 12 years were diagnosed with a sexually transmitted infection (STI) in each of the last five years; if he will make it his policy routinely to publish figures on the number of STI diagnoses among under-12s in future years; and if he will make a statement. [17859]

Anne Milton: The Office for National Statistics (ONS) paper entitled 'Review of the Dissemination of Health Statistics—Confidentiality Guidance', which conforms with departmental policy on data publication, has been adopted to enable the Health Protection Agency (HPA) to provide surveillance information without jeopardising patient confidentiality. When publishing information on sensitive clinical conditions such as sexually transmitted infections (STIs), public health interests must be balanced against patient confidentiality and data protection obligations. The HPA aims to consistently apply the principles and uniform standards of the ONS/Department of Health guidance when publishing information.

Information on STIs is among the most sensitive data the HPA collects. Where a cell in a table has a number less than five, the risk of indirect ascertainment of the identity of those affected is assessed. Diagnoses of STIs in those aged under 15 years are not published by single year of age because the small numbers concerned, together with the additional information of the exact year of age, pose too great a risk of deductive disclosure. Therefore, only aggregate information on STI diagnoses in those aged under 15 years is presented in HPA publications and there are no plans to review this policy.

Information on the number of selected STIs for those diagnosed in genitourinary medicine (GUM) clinics and in the National Chlamydia Screening Programme (NCSP) in England, in those under the age of 15, 2005-09, is given in the following table.

	STI	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
GUM clinics	Gonorrhoea	71	49	60	47	43
	Syphilis	10	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
	Genital herpes	35	33	56	67	56
	Genital warts	139	138	153	149	177
	Chlamydia	317	328	332	356	264
Community-based chlamydia screening (NCSP)	Chlamydia	181	217	471	720	714

[1] Suppressed value less than five (between 0 and five)

Notes:

GUM data:

1. The data available from the KC60 (2008 and earlier) and GUMCAD (2009 onwards) returns are for diagnoses made in GUM clinics only. Diagnoses made in other clinical settings, such as General Practice, are not recorded in the GUMCAD dataset.

2. The data available from the KC60 and GUMCAD returns are the number of diagnoses made, not the number of patients diagnosed.

3. The information provided has been adjusted for missing clinic data.

NCSP data:

4. The NCSP has been phased in since 1 April 2003 with all 152 primary care trusts reporting data to the programme since March 2008. Therefore numbers of diagnoses have risen substantially as the proportion of sexually active under 25 year olds who have been tested has increased.

5. The NCSP data are for positive chlamydia screens conducted outside of GUM clinics.

6. The data available from the NCSP are the number of diagnoses made and not the number of patients diagnosed.

7. NSCP data exclude those resident outside of England.

Additional notes on table:

8. There will be over counting of chlamydia data as patients from the NCSP may be referred to GUM clinics.

9. STI related infections in infants and young children such as ophthalmia neonatorum due to chlamydia or gonorrhoea, herpes and congenital syphilis will also be included in the table.

Source:

Health Protection Agency, KC60 and GUMCAD returns; NCSP returns. Date of data: August 2010

Suicide: Armed Forces

Toby Perkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will consider the merits of introducing a comprehensive mental health education programme to address the vulnerability to suicide of those leaving the armed forces. [17963]

Paul Burstow: My hon. Friend the Member for South West Wiltshire (Dr Murrison) recently submitted a report on the mental health of service people and veterans which was commissioned by the Prime Minister and has been welcomed by the Government. Officials from the Department of Health and Ministry of Defence are currently working on implementing these proposals.

Tobacco: Sales

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many representations in opposition to the proposed prohibition on tobacco displays his Department has received since 28 July 2010. [17391]

Anne Milton: Many representations have been made by interested parties on both sides of this argument by letter and e-mail, in meetings and by other methods, ever since the Department began consultations in May 2008. These have continued and the Department has received over 6,000 items of official correspondence mentioning tobacco displays since 28 July 2010. The majority of these come from a postcard campaign by the Association of Convenience Stores launched on 9 August 2010 opposing the new legislation.

It is not possible to provide a definitive total of all representations, however made, or an accurate breakdown of whether they oppose or support the prohibition of tobacco displays.

Transplant Surgery: Health Services

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received on the provision of healthcare for transplant patients, with particular reference to the *(a)* financial and *(b)* health effects on such patients of prescription charges. [16926]

Anne Milton: In the period 12 May 2010 to 8 October 2010, the Department had received around 280 written representations about prescription charges from hon. Members (including the hon. Lady's question), Noble Lords and members of the public. Some of these may have concerned transplant patients.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Civil Servants: Pensions

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many former civil servants who had left service between 1 June 1972 and 1 October 2002 but who had fallen ill before attaining the age of 60 received a lump sum under the Civil Service Pension Scheme in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009. [17768]

Mr Maude: I have been asked to reply.

The Civil Service Pension Scheme medical adviser supported 179 former scheme member applications for early payment of deferred benefits in 2008-09 and 137 in 2009-10. As well as a pension lump sum they would also have begun receiving their ongoing civil service pension. These former members would have left employment on or after 1 June 1972.

CABINET OFFICE

Third Sector Compact

11. **Lindsay Roy:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what plans his Department has for the future of the compact on relations between Government and the third sector in England. [18058]

Mr Hurd: The Compact is an important framework for the relationship between the state and the sector.

The Prime Minister has made it clear that we need to strengthen it. That work is currently being undertaken with Compact Voice. The intention is to bring it up to date, make it sharper and increase the transparency and accountability around implementation.

National Citizen Service

12. **Stella Creasy:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the cost of providing a national citizen service place for every 16-year-old by 2015. [18059]

Mr Hurd: Over the next two years we intend to test a range of different approaches for delivering National Citizen Service. Doing so will help us to identify the most cost-effective way to deliver a high-quality National Citizen Service experience to 16-year olds. We will have a clearer idea of the likely costs of a wider roll-out of National Citizen Service once we have evaluated the two year pilot phase.

Voluntary and Community Sector

14. **Mr Evennett:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what his policy is on increasing the resources to be allocated to the voluntary and community sector. [18061]

Mr Hurd: One of the priorities in the Office for Civil Society is to help get more resources into the sector—both time and money. Last Thursday we published "Building a Stronger Civil Society" a strategy for the voluntary, community and a social enterprise sector. Specific plans are subject to the spending review which was announced by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer today.

Non-departmental Public Bodies

15. **Neil Carmichael:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent progress has been made on his Department's review of non-departmental public bodies. [18062]

Mr Maude: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave earlier today.

Mr Amess: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which non-departmental public bodies sponsored by his Department he plans to *(a)* abolish, *(b)* retain, *(c)* retain with modifications, *(d)* merge with other bodies and *(e)* retain pending further consideration; and if he will make a statement. [17366]

Mr Maude: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement made to the House on 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 26-28WS.

Cancer

Mr Baron: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what the mortality rate was for each type of cancer in people aged *(a)* 49 years and under, *(b)* 50 to 59 years, *(c)* 60 to 69 years, *(d)* 70 to 79 years and *(e)* over 80 years in (i) each cancer network, (ii) each primary care trust and (iii) England in each of the last five years; [17163]

(2) what the incidence was of each type of cancer in people aged *(a)* 49 years and under, *(b)* 50 to 59 years, *(c)* 60 to 69 years, *(d)* 70 to 79 years and *(e)* over 80 years in (i) each cancer network, (ii) each primary care trust and (iii) England in each of the last five years; [17164]

(3) how many people aged *(a)* 49 years and under, *(b)* 50 to 59 years, *(c)* 60 to 69 years, *(d)* 70 to 79 years and *(e)* over 80 years were diagnosed with each type of cancer in (i) each cancer network, (ii) each primary care trust and (iii) England in each of the last five years. [17165]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated October 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent questions asking:

1. What the mortality rate was for each type of cancer in people aged (a) 49 years and under, (b) 50 to 59 years, (c) 60 to 69 years, (d) 70 to 79 years and (e) over 80 years in (i) each cancer network, (ii) each primary care trust and (iii) England in each of the last five years. [017163]

2. What the incidence was of each type of cancer in people aged (a) 49 years and under, (b) 50 to 59 years, (c) 60 to 69 years, (d) 70 to 79 years and (e) over 80 years in (i) each cancer network, (ii) each primary care trust and (iii) England in each of the last five years. [017164]

3. How many people aged (a) 49 years and under, (b) 50 to 59 years, (c) 60 to 69 years, (d) 70 to 79 years and (e) over 80 years were diagnosed with each type of cancer in (i) each cancer network, (ii) each primary care trust and (iii) England in each of the last five years. [017165]

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases of cancer (incidence) are for the year 2007, while the latest figures for mortality are for the year 2009. However, since the latest available population estimates for primary care organisations and cancer networks (required to calculate rates) are for the year 2008, all mortality rates have been provided up to 2008.

Question 2 above requests figures on 'incidence... [for] each type of cancer', which is the same as 'how many people... were diagnosed' (question 3). Question 2 has the therefore been interpreted as meaning incidence rates.

To supply mortality rates, incidence rates and incidence numbers for all types of cancer for (i) each cancer network, (ii) each primary care organisation and (iii) England in each of the last five years could only be done at disproportionate cost. Therefore, figures have been provided for the four most commonly diagnosed cancers: breast (women), colorectal (bowel), lung and prostate.

Age-specific rates have been provided for England, using the age groups as specified in the questions above. Age-standardised rates have been provided for cancer networks and primary care organisations, since numbers were too low to calculate cancer-specific, age-specific rates for all age groups, for all areas.

Table 1 (i) provides the age-standardised mortality rate for breast (women), colorectal, lung and prostate cancer, for each cancer network in England, for the years 2004 to 2008.

Table 1 (ii) provides the age-standardised mortality rate for breast (women), colorectal, lung and prostate cancer, for each primary care organisation in England, for the years 2004 to 2008.

Table 1 (iii) provides the age-specific mortality rate for breast (women), colorectal, lung and prostate cancer, for persons aged (a) 49 years and under , (b) 50 to 59 years, (c) 60 to 69 years, (d) 70 to 79 years and (e) over 60 years , for England, for the years 2004 to 2006.

Table 2 (i) provides the age-standardised incidence rate for breast (women), colorectal, lung and prostate cancer, for each cancer network in England, for the years 2003 to 2007.

Table 2 (ii) provides the age-standardised incidence rate for breast (women), colorectal, lung and prostate cancer, for each primary care organisation in England, for the years 2003 to 2007.

Table 2 (iii) provides the age-specific incidence rate for breast (women), colorectal, lung and prostate cancer, for persons aged (a) 49 years and under, (b) 50 to 59 years, (c) 60 to 69 years, (d) 70 to 79 years and (e) over 60 years , for England, for the years 2003 to 2007.

Table 3 (i) provides the number of newly diagnosed breast (women), colorectal, lung and prostate cancers, for each cancer network in England, for the years 2003 to 2007.

Table 3 (ii) provides the number of newly diagnosed breast (women), colorectal, lung and prostate cancers, for each primary care organisation in England, for the years 2003 to 2007.

Table 3 (iii) provides the number of newly diagnosed breast (women), colorectal, lung and prostate cancers, for persons aged (a) 49 years and under, (b) 50 to 59 years, (c) 60 to 69 years , (d) 70 to 79 years and (e) over 60 years , for England, for the years 2003 to 2007.

Copies of all tables have been placed in the House of Commons Library.

General Election 2010: Fraud

Mr Spellar: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what evidence his Department has collected on the extent of alleged electoral fraud at the May 2010 general election. [17516]

Mr Harper: The Cabinet Office does not collect information on the extent of fraud but the Electoral Commission and the Association of Chief Police Officers undertake systematic monitoring of allegations of electoral malpractice reported to the police during the election period. Cabinet Office officials also attend meetings of relevant stakeholders hosted by the Electoral Commission to discuss issues related to electoral integrity.

The Electoral Commission has indicated that it will publish the verified data arising from this process, and analysis on the extent and nature of electoral malpractice reported during 2010 (including the May UK general election), in January 2011.

Older People

Mr Amess: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female centenarians there were in England and Wales in each year from 1980 to 2005. [17418]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck dated October 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question to the Minister for the Cabinet Office asking how many (a) male and (b) female centenarians there were in England and Wales in each year from 1980 to 2005 (017418).

Estimates of the number of centenarians are published by the Office for National Statistics for England and Wales combined. The table below gives the requested information.

Estimated number of centenarians, 1980-2005, England and Wales

	Male	Female	Total
1980	300	2,000	2,300
1981	300	2,100	2,400
1982	300	2,200	2,600
1983	300	2,400	2,800
1984	400	2,600	2,900
1985	400	2,700	3,100
1986	400	2,900	3,300
1987	400	3,100	3,600
1988	500	3,300	3,800
1989	500	3,500	4,000
1990	500	3,600	4,000
1991	500	3,700	4,200
1992	500	4,000	4,500
1993	500	4,300	4,800
1994	500	4,400	4,900
1995	500	4,600	5,200
1996	500	4,700	5,300
1997	500	4,900	5,400
1998	600	5,100	5,700
1999	600	5,300	5,900
2000	700	5,500	6,200

Estimated number of centenarians, 1980-2005, England and Wales

	Male	*Female*	*Total*
2001	700	5,900	6,700
2002	800	6,300	7,000
2003	800	6,500	7,300
2004	900	6,800	7,700
2005	1,000	7,100	8,100

Note:

Figures rounded to nearest 100, may not add exactly due to this rounding.

Source:

Office for National Statistics

INDEPENDENT PARLIAMENTARY STANDARDS AUTHORITY COMMITTEE

Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority: Contracts

Mr Liddell-Grainger: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, which companies, other than Calyx (UK), responded to the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority's invitation to tender for the provision of infrastructure and enterprise software support; and what criteria were used to determine which respondee was awarded the contract. [17618]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Andrew McDonald to Ian Liddell-Grainger:

As Interim Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking for information on the companies who responded to the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority's invitation to tender for the provision of infrastructure and enterprise software support; and what criteria were used to determine which respondee was awarded the contract. (17618)

The companies that responded to the invitation to tender for the provision of infrastructure and enterprise software support were:

Computacenter (UK) Ltd

Insight Direct (UK) Ltd

Probrand Ltd

Calyx (UK) Ltd formed part of the Insight Direct (UK) Ltd tender.

Information on the assessment criteria applied during this process has already been provided in our answer given in respect of a previous question on 12 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 258W.

Manpower: Parliamentary Standards Authority

Helen Jones: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, how many *(a)* permanent and *(b)* temporary staff the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority employs in each pay band. [17890]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Andrew McDonald to Helen Jones:

As Interim Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many (a) permanent and (b) temporary staff the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority employs in each pay band. 17890

The number of permanent, fixed term and temporary full time equivalent staff employed in each IPSA salary range as of 14 October 2010 is shown below. Temporary staff have been assigned to the salary grade of the position in which they are working.

Job grade	*Permanent*	*Fixed term*	*Temporary (incl. secondees)*
Senior Civil Service or equivalent	0	1	4.7
Grade F (£60,000-£73,000)	2	0	0
Grade E (£46,000-£61,500)	5	1	3
Grade D (£35,000-£46,000)	4	1	4
Grade C (£30,500-£37,000)	9.5	4	1
Grade B (£23,000-£30,500)	17	0	15
Grade A (£19,500-£25,000)	5	0	6
Total	42.5	7	33.7

JUSTICE

Courts: Bedfordshire

Gavin Shuker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much funding his Department allocated to HM Courts Service in Bedfordshire in 2009-10; and what estimate he has made of the level of funding for that service in Bedfordshire in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12. [18025]

Mr Djanogly: Her Majesty's Courts Service (HMCS) allocated £7.41 million in Bedfordshire in 2009-10 and the latest estimate of the budget for 2010-11 is £7.08 million. This reduction of 4% in the allocation in 2010-11 is consistent with the reductions across HMCS as a result of efficiencies.

The estimate for 2011-12 will not be available until the announcement of the outcome of the spending review and the subsequent work in identifying the breakdown of this settlement across the rest of Her Majesty's Courts Service.

Crime: Victims

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what arrangements are in place to inform *(a)* victims of crime, *(b)* their families and *(c)* police officers about family and victim impact statements. [18008]

Mr Blunt: Victim Impact Statements are now officially known as Victim Personal Statements. All victims of crime or, in cases of homicide, the family of the victim are eligible to make a VPS. The present method of providing a leaflet to inform victims of the Victim Personal Statement is currently being reviewed, but the relevant information and the offer to make a statement can still be provided by the police.

Bereaved families of homicide victims are also offered the opportunity to make a Victim Personal Statement under the Crown Prosecution Service's Victim Focus Scheme. Families can meet with prosecutors, who will explain the purpose of the statement.

Ensuring that police officers offer victims or their families the opportunity to make a Victim Personal Statement is the responsibility of individual police forces, many of which have local policies in place. In October 2009, the former Office of Criminal Justice Reform released national guidance called 'Victim Personal Statements: A guide for police officers, investigators and criminal justice practitioners'.

Domestic Violence: Rape

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he plans to review guidelines on grant of pre-trial bail to those accused of *(a)* serious domestic violence and *(b)* rape of a partner. [17916]

Mr Blunt: The decision whether to grant bail is a matter for the discretion of the court and the Ministry of Justice does not issue guidance. However, the Crown Prosecution Service issues guidance to Crown Prosecutors on prosecuting cases of domestic violence and rape, and this includes advice on how prosecutors should approach the question of bail. The guidance makes clear that the primary concern of the CPS in such cases is the protection of the victim and any children that may be involved. It emphasises the need to gather as much information as possible on the needs and views of victims where the CPS is deciding whether to oppose bail or is recommending conditions to be imposed on a defendant before release. The CPS keeps its guidance under constant review.

Legal Aid

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of the legal aid budget in *(a)* England and Wales and *(b)* Wales was spent on the 10 per cent. of cases which resulted in the greatest cost to the public purse in the latest period for which figures are available. [17876]

Mr Djanogly: The answer could be provided only at disproportionate cost as the Legal Services Commission would need to collate and manually check a significant amount of information from various sources.

Probation: Training

Alun Michael: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department spent on training probation officers in 2009-10. [17957]

Mr Blunt: The cost of providing training for trainee probation officers to qualify as probation officers in the period April 2009 to March 2010 was £26,998,207. These costs include the trainee salary, pension contribution and the university administration cost.

Regional Offender Managers

Alun Michael: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of employing and training Probation Service offender managers in *(a)* England and Wales and *(b)* each probation area in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [17955]

Mr Blunt: For the period April 2009-March 2010 the estimated cost of employing all qualified probation officers/offender managers in probation areas and Trusts in England and Wales was £152,282,756.

The estimated cost of the training leading to qualification as probation officers/offender managers was £26,998,207 (consisting trainee allowance of £24,526,100 and higher education costs of £2,472,107).

The estimated costs, for each probation area/trust and region, for the period April 2009-March 2010, are provided in the following table.

£

	2009-10		
Probation area/trust	*Trainee probation officer allowance*	*Higher education costs*	*Qualified probation offender managers total basic salary costs*
South West	—	192,038	—
Avon and Somerset	710,600	—	3,277,784
Devon and Cornwall	339,300	—	3,905,148
Dorset	222,000	—	1,643,436
Gloucestershire	258,700	—	1,209,279
Wiltshire	456,600	—	872,882
East of England	—	262,596	
Bedfordshire	203,700	—	1,530,177
Cambridgeshire	325,900	—	2,143,527
Essex	168,809	—	1,542,096
Hertfordshire	280,800	—	1,745,800
Norfolk	356,300	—	1,290,705
Suffolk	338,300	—	2,362,988
North West	—	353,106	
Cheshire	353,700		2,662,210
Cumbria	307,200		1,562,922
Lancashire	631,500		5,014,847
Greater Manchester	1,331,300	—	9,727,650
Merseyside	832,200		6,422,498
North East	—	76,010	
Durham	187,500	—	2,655,248
Teesside	156,900		2,958,494
Northumbria	445,200		4,377,804
South East	—	306,705	
Hampshire	531,900		4,142,483
Kent	423,200	—	3,091,834
Surrey	390,500		1,203,794
Sussex	873,000		3,908,967

			£
		2009-10	
Probation area/trust	*Trainee probation officer allowance*	*Higher education costs*	*Qualified probation offender managers total basic salary costs*
Thames Valley	1,140,000	—	4,165,216
Yorkshire and Humberside		215,976	—
Humberside	453,900	—	2,547,462
North Yorkshire	158,500		2,407,290
South Yorkshire	634,400		5,028,177
West Yorkshire	678,900		7,764,139
Midlands	—	425,417	—
Derbyshire	296,000	—	2,858,782
Leicestershire	418,500	—	4,005,113
Lincolnshire	151,200	—	1,059,138
Northamptonshire	152,000	—	1,780,316
Nottinghamshire	570,400	—	3,880,284
Staffordshire	283,500	—	3,079,768
Warwickshire	218,500	—	1,527,794
West Mercia	324,700	—	2,163,834
West Midlands	691,900		11,149,503
London	6,862,100	432,425	21,116,280
Wales	—	207,834	—
Dyfed-Powys	313,700		923,337
Gwent	157,700	—	2,159,508
North Wales	507,600	—	1,817,878
South Wales	387,500	—	3,596,364
Total	24,526,100	2,472,107	152,282,756

Notes:
Column 1 shows how the trainee allowance was allocated to individual probation areas and trusts to cover the salaries and pensions of trainee probation officer/offender managers.
Column 2 shows the additional higher education costs for trainee probation officers for each region.
Column 3 shows total salary costs for qualified offender managers. This is a snapshot at 31 March 2010 collected from probation areas/trusts via the HR Data Warehouse. Local technical/staffing issues prevented West Mercia (November 2009 data provided), West Midlands (January 2010 data provided), North Yorkshire, Surrey, and Sussex (February 2010 figures provided) providing data as at March 2010.

Young Offenders: Reoffenders

Richard Harrington: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of young offenders re-offended within one year of being released from custody in the latest period for which figures are available. [18398]

Mr Blunt: The latest reoffending rate for young people (those aged between 10 and 17) released from custody in England and Wales in the first quarter of 2008 is 74.3%.

Reoffending rates for young people are based on whether an offender has been convicted at court or received an out-of-court disposal for an offence in the year following release from custody.

WALES

National Assembly for Wales

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions she has had with *(a)* ministerial colleagues, *(b)* the Welsh Assembly Government and *(c)* the Boundary Commission for Wales on reviewing the boundaries of National Assembly for Wales constituencies; and what implications the outcome of the referendum on further powers for the National Assembly for Wales will have on the outcomes of that review. [17910]

Mr Harper: I have been asked to reply.

Clause 11 of the Parliamentary Voting Systems and Constituencies Bill breaks the link between Assembly constituencies and parliamentary constituencies in Wales, so that fewer parliamentary constituencies in future would not reduce the size of the Assembly.

The Government intends to bring forward legislation at an appropriate time to establish the mechanism to review and alter Assembly constituencies. In the meantime, the Bill includes transitional provisions so that the Boundary Commission for Wales can decide whether to complete its current reviews.

I have discussed the effects of the clause with the Secretary of State for Wales and the First Minister of Wales. The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Wales has discussed future reviews of Assembly constituency boundaries with the Boundary Commission for Wales.

The Government does not anticipate the outcome of the referendum on full law-making powers for the National Assembly for Wales affecting future reviews of Assembly constituency boundaries.

TREASURY

Child Benefit

Mr Umunna: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was allocated to expenditure on child benefit in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; and how much he has allocated in (i) 2011-12, (ii) 2012-13 and (iii) 2013-14. [11889]

Justine Greening: Child benefit expenditure is demand-led, and while Parliament votes on the allocation in the latest year, there is no set allocation for future years.

Departmental Billing

Mike Freer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average cost to his Department was of processing the payment of an invoice in the latest period for which figures are available; and what proportion of invoices settled in that period his Department paid *(a)* electronically and *(b)* by cheque. [16172]

Justine Greening: The average cost of processing an invoice to the Treasury in 2008-09, including staff costs and a proportionate share of relevant overheads, was £10.10. Within that period, 99.2% of invoices were paid electronically with the balance of 0.8% being paid by cheque.

Departmental Consultants

Pete Wishart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was spent on external consultants and advisers by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) non-departmental public body and (ii) executive agency for which his Department is responsible in each year since 2005. [12450]

Justine Greening: Details of spending on external consultants for the Treasury and the Debt Management Office is shown in table 5 of Annex A to the Treasury's 2009-10 resource accounts, which is available from

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk

The Asset Protection Agency, which was set up on 7 December 2009 spent £1,856,000 in 2009-10 on external consultants. There was no such spending by the Royal Mint Advisory Committee.

Departmental Drinking Water

Nick de Bois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department has spent on bottled water in each year since 2008. [16878]

Justine Greening: Since June 2008, meetings at the Treasury's 1 Horse Guards Road building have been supplied with in-house bottled filtered water, rather than bottled water sourced from outside suppliers. Spending from June 2008 until the end of the 2008-09 financial year was £27,000 and for 2009-10 it was £39,000. Spending in the first six months of 2010-11 of £8,000 was significantly below the equivalent period in the previous year. It is not possible to separately identify costs of bottled water prior to June 2008 as this formed part of the cost of meeting refreshments that included teas and coffees, bottled water and biscuits.

Departmental Equality

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether his Department undertook an equalities impact assessment in respect of the measures proposed in the June 2010 Budget; and if he will make a statement; [11575]

(2) if he will publish the equality impact assessment his Department made of the measures in the June 2010 Budget; and if he will make a statement. [12560]

Mr Gauke *[holding answers 27 July and 6 September 2010]:* The Budget is an overall statement of economic policy, containing a whole range of measures. Therefore, it is not possible to make an overall assessment of the Budget.

Instead, Departments consider the equality impact of their policies as they are developed and implemented. Policy teams will continue to consider the impact of the individual budget measures on gender, race and disability as they further develop and implement the policies. This is in line with their legal obligations and will build on what they have done already.

Departmental Pensions

Pete Wishart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost was of pension contributions incurred by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) non-departmental public body and (ii) executive agency for which he is responsible in (A) Scotland, (B) Wales, (C) each region of England and (D) Northern Ireland in each of the last three financial years; and what the planned expenditure is for 2010-11. [12449]

Justine Greening: The information available on pension spending in the past three years and forecast spending for 2010-11 is shown in the following table.

£000

	HM Treasury	*Debt Management Office*	*Asset Protection Agency*
2007-08	10,448	851	n/a
2008-09	9,558	[1]898	n/a
2009-10	10,062	981	23
2010-11 forecast	n/a	1,041	76

[1] This figure has been restated since publication of DMO's 2008-09 accounts reflecting the adoption of IAS 19 staff benefits.

The Department's accounting systems do not identify pension payments by region.

The Royal Mint Advisory Committee has not made any pension payments in the past three years and has no plans to make any payments in 2010-11.

Departmental Security

Graham Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the reasons are for the change in the amount of expenditure by his Department on security between *(a)* 2004-05 and 2005-06 and *(b)* 2005-06 and 2006-07. [13354]

Justine Greening: Spending in 2005-06 on security was higher than usual mainly due to a contribution of £240,000 by the Treasury to the Government Secure Zone (GSZ) project. The GSZ designates that area of central London containing major Government and public buildings and the programme consisted of a linked series of projects to enhance security within the zone.

Departmental Training

Pete Wishart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what training has been provided for Ministers in his Department since the formation of the present administration; and at what cost. [6452]

Justine Greening: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Member for Horsham (Mr Maude) to the hon. Member for West Bromwich East (Mr Watson) on 3 June 2010, *Official Report* column 51-52W. The National School of Government is funded through its Core Learning programme to deliver induction and other training to Ministers, and there is no separate charge to Departments.

HM Treasury Ministers have not received training from any other providers.

Doctors: Vetting

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has made an estimate of the savings likely to be made consequent on reducing the number of Criminal Record Bureau checks for junior doctors, as referred to in his Department's Spending Challenge. [16645]

Anne Milton: I have been asked to reply.

Our estimate is that the potential scale of the annual savings from national health service trusts reducing the number of unnecessary Criminal Record Bureau (CRB) checks on junior doctors would be up to £1 million per year.

This figure is an estimate based on the number of registrars and doctors in training and the current cost of a CRB check. Other potential savings could also arise from indirect costs (e.g. administrative time associated with processing forms etc).

The Home Secretary announced on 15 June that the CRB checking regime would be reviewed. The terms of reference for the review will be announced shortly.

Employment

John Healey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate the Department has made of employment growth in each *(a)* region and *(b)* sector in (i) 2010-11, (ii) 2011-12, (iii) 2012-13, (iv) 2013-14 and (v) 2014-15. [12183]

Justine Greening: HM Treasury has not made an estimate of employment by sector, broken down by region in the coming years.

The Office for Budget Responsibility's Budget 2010 forecast shows that total unemployment will come down from 8.1% this year, falling in every year to 6.1% in 2015. The OBR forecast is for total employment to rise by 1.3 million by 2015-16.

Excise Duties: Fuels

Katy Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has for pilot schemes to reduce fuel prices *(a)* on the Isle of Arran and *(b)* in other remote rural areas. [17456]

Justine Greening: The Government intend to introduce a pilot scheme that will deliver a maximum of 5 pence per litre duty discount on petrol and diesel in remote rural areas. The Government are considering the exact scope of the pilots and at present has announced its intention to include the Inner and Outer Hebrides, the Northern Isles, and the Isles of Scilly. The Government will report back to the House, in due course, prior to submitting a formal proposal on the scope and design of the scheme to the European Commission.

Tax Collection

Kate Green: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what plans he has to reduce the amount of tax due to the Exchequer which is not collected; and if he will make a statement; [17877]

(2) what estimate he has made of the additional revenue that would accrue to the Exchequer if tax collection were *(a)* 90 per cent., *(b)* 95 per cent. and *(c)* 100 per cent. of annual liabilities in 2010-11; [17981]

(3) whether his proposals to reduce the budget deficit includes an increase in the proportion of tax liabilities collected; and if he will make a statement. [17987]

Mr Gauke: The Chief Secretary to the Treasury announced the Government will make available £900 million over the spending review period to raise additional revenues from those who undermine the tax system and seek to avoid paying their fair share. This should bring in around £7 billion per annum by 2014-15 in additional tax revenues. Full implementation plans will be available after the spending review announcements on 20 October.

The recent publication of the tax gap figures for 2008-09 puts the overall tax gap at £42 billion (9% of estimated total tax liability), and is available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/measuring-tax-gaps-2010.htm.pdf

Taxation: Developing Countries

Stephen Timms: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress he has made in establishing a multilateral instrument for tax information exchange with developing countries; and if he will make a statement. [17863]

Mr Gauke: The Government are committed to ensuring that developing countries benefit from recent improvements in tax transparency. The Government are currently in discussions with a number of developing countries to explore the available approaches to enable developing countries to benefit from the new transparent tax environment. This includes examining multilateral instruments for tax information exchange.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans HM Revenue and Customs has to support capacity-building projects in respect of the tax collection administrations in developing countries. [18023]

Mr Gauke: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) actively supports projects to enhance the capacity of tax collection administrations in developing countries.

In many instances, it is more cost-efficient for this work to be undertaken on a multilateral basis, which is why in recent years HMRC has engaged proactively in capacity building initiatives organised by the Intra-European Organisation of Tax administrations (IOTA), which includes in its membership 46 countries across the European continent, including developing countries in the Balkans and eastern Europe.

HMRC is also involved with the OECD Informal Task Force on Tax and Development which is examining how capacity building in the tax administrations of developing countries can be targeted to bring the greatest benefit to developing countries. The UK will remain closely involved in this work.

HMRC hosts and runs two flagship training courses on behalf of the Commonwealth Association of Tax Administrators (CATA). The courses are designed to develop management capability and technical skills and are attended by senior managers and tax inspectors from Commonwealth countries.

HMRC is also involved in a number of bilateral initiatives such as the partnership with the Ethiopian Revenue and Customs Authority (ERCA), under which managerial and technical assistance is provided to support ERCA's modernisation programme.

Welfare Tax Credits

Kate Green: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of the number of tax credit recipients who will be affected by the proposed reduction in the disregard of increases in income from £25,000 to £5,000. [18233]

Mr Gauke: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 30 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 584W.

Working Tax Credit: Fraud

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the monetary value of fraudulent claims under the childcare element of working tax credit where parents register children who do not subsequently attend before- and after-school clubs in the latest period for which figures are available; and what steps he is taking to reduce the number of such claims. [18097]

Mr Gauke: The information is not available as HMRC's systems do not record this level of detail. For information relating to HM Revenue and Customs compliance checks on tax credits awards I refer my hon. Friend to the information published on pages R41 and R42 of the 2009-10 Comptroller and Auditor General's standard reports at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/hmrc-accs-0910.pdf

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 21 October 2010

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Decent Homes

17. **Mr Lammy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has for the Decent Homes programme; and if he will make a statement. [18476]

Grant Shapps: As part of our £6.5 billion investment in housing, the Government will spend £2.1 billion on tackling non-decent social homes over the next four years. Of this, £1.6 billion will be on council housing.

Mobile Phone Operators: Planning

18. **Mr Brine:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to issue guidance to local authorities on the treatment of future planning applications from mobile phone operators; and if he will make a statement. [18477]

Robert Neill: Guidance to local authorities on the treatment of planning applications from mobile telephone operators is currently contained in Planning Policy Guidance Note 8: Telecommunications. We will consider whether any changes are required as part of our development of a National Planning Framework.

Local Authority Expenditure: Online Publication

19. **Julian Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he plans to take in respect of local authorities which have not started to publish online details of their expenditure over £500. [18478]

Mr Pickles: All local authorities should be publishing this information from January 2011. I am pleased with the response from local government with nearly 80 councils now publishing information and welcome the support from the LGA in driving this agenda forward. Given the importance for citizens and communities I will continue to challenge and support those authorities yet to do so.

Shared Ownership Schemes

20. **Richard Harrington:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has to assist first-time buyers through shared ownership schemes; and if he will make a statement. [18479]

Grant Shapps: We announced in the spending review almost £4.5 billion investment for affordable housing, which through a new delivery model is expected to deliver up to 155,000 new affordable homes over this spending period. Where appropriate, this will include provision of low cost home ownership. We will provide more details on these reforms shortly.

Richard Harrington: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans his Department has to encourage the *(a)* extension and *(b)* take-up of shared ownership schemes for first-time buyers; and if he will make a statement. [18696]

Grant Shapps: We announced in the spending review almost £4.5 billion in investment for affordable housing, which through a new delivery model is expected to deliver up to 155,000 new affordable homes over this spending period. Where appropriate, this will include provision of low cost home ownership. We will provide more details on these reforms shortly.

Rough Sleepers

21. **Michael Ellis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment his Department has made of the accuracy of its rough sleeping counts. [18480]

Grant Shapps: We have overhauled the way we evaluate rough sleeping so we now have an accurate picture of the problem across the country. Rather than 440 people sleeping rough there are 1,247.

Local Authorities: Administrative Burden

22. **Esther McVey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he is taking to reduce the administrative burden his Department places on local authorities. [18482]

Mr Pickles: Last week I scrapped the National Indicator Set and handed control of more than 4,700 Whitehall targets to councils and their voters, to keep or not as they see fit.

This is on top of my previous decision to scrap the Comprehensive Area Assessment and my continuing work with councils and others to identify excessive legislation and needless bureaucracy.

Planning Inspectorate

23. **David Tredinnick:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions he has had with the Planning Inspectorate on planning decisions. [18483]

Robert Neill: As an Executive Agency, the Planning Inspectorate takes responsibility for its day to day operational work within a policy context set by Government. I have regular meetings with the Chief Executive to discuss performance and progress.

Housing: CSR

24. **Simon Hughes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has to meet representatives of local authorities to discuss the implications for housing policy of the outcome of the comprehensive spending review; and if he will make a statement. [18484]

Grant Shapps: I have written to the chief executives of all local authorities outlining the implications of yesterday's spending review for housing. A copy of this letter has been placed in the Library of the House. I have regular meetings with representatives of local authorities to discuss housing policy issues.

Buildings: Regulation

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made on his Department's Future of Building Regulation exercise; and if he will make a statement. [18581]

Andrew Stunell: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Cities of London and Westminster (Mr Field) on Tuesday 19 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 660W.

Homelessness: Finance

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has for the allocation of homelessness grant for 2010-11. [18286]

Grant Shapps: This Government are committed to tackling and preventing homelessness. We have established a new cross-Government working group on homelessness bringing together Ministers from eight Government Departments to address the complex causes of homelessness and rough sleeping. We have already allocated £74 million in 2010-11 to local authorities and the voluntary sector, enabling them to prevent homelessness effectively.

In addition we will be providing a further £12.25 million to local authorities and the voluntary sector to help those households that are affected by the proposed housing benefit reforms and to help improve access to the private rented sector for single homeless people.

Housing: Construction

Mr Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proposals to introduce a new homes bonus for developers he is considering; and if he will make a statement. [18103]

Grant Shapps: The New Homes Bonus will commence in April 2011. The scheme will match the council tax raised for new homes for the following six years. This is a powerful, simple and transparent incentive for local councils to facilitate housing growth. Communities will now reap the real benefits of growth and not just the costs. Further details will be set out in a full statement when we consult on the scheme design in November.

We will continue our commitment to reducing the burden of unnecessary regulation on homebuilders. This will reduce the costs of development and incentivise investment in new housing.

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will bring forward legislative proposals to ensure that planning applications for new dwellings refused by local planning authorities are not approved on appeal on the basis of rolling five-year housing supply targets. [18603]

Greg Clark: Decision on planning appeals are the responsibility of planning inspectors. They make decisions based on all material circumstances. The current policy on planning for housing is set out in Planning Policy Statement 3: Housing. The policy requires local authorities to identify sufficient specific sites to deliver a five-year supply of housing and treat applications favourably where there is less than a five-year supply of land in place.

With the abolition of the regional strategies, local authorities will be able to determine their own local housing targets, against which the five-year land supply is determined.

In the coalition agreement the Government stated that they will publish and present to Parliament a simple and consolidated national planning framework covering all forms of development. We will make an announcement on how we propose to take forward the national planning framework and the implications for specific areas of planning policy. This will include planning for housing policy.

Mental Illness

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the recommendations relating to his Department in the Government Office for Science's report, Foresight on Mental Capital and Wellbeing; if he will ensure that his Department's policy development process takes account of psychological research into subjective wellbeing; and if he will make a statement. [18458]

Robert Neill: My Department's Evidence and Innovation Strategy commits Ministers and policymakers to make use of the latest, world-class research, combined with the bespoke analysis and interpretation of data by our in-house analysts and scientists. Our commissioned research supports new and innovative ways to understand how best to address policy priorities, providing practical and insightful evidence to inform innovative, effective and efficient policy options for Ministers. Successive Foresight reports, including that on Mental Capital and Wellbeing have contributed to this evidence base.

CLG is aware of the ways in which we can try to promote wellbeing and positive mental health. For example, we recognise the impact that the local environment can have on people's wellbeing. Through our planning and regeneration policies, we are working to improve the quality of neighbourhoods throughout the country. Among the many benefits, this will help people feel a sense of pride and belonging to their community, support the drive for localism, and create neighbourhoods that are strong, attractive and thriving.

PRIME MINISTER

Departmental Mobile Phones

Andrew Selous: To ask the Prime Minister how many mobile telephones the Government supplied to his predecessor during his period in office. [18658]

The Prime Minister: This information relates to the previous Administration.

Departmental Official Cars

Mr Winnick: To ask the Prime Minister which Ministers holding which positions in which Departments are entitled to a ministerial car. [18604]

The Prime Minister: The rules on the provision of Government cars are set out in the 'Ministerial Code'. The Government are committed to publishing on an annual basis the number and cost of any allocated cars.

Departmental Rail Travel

Mr Winnick: To ask the Prime Minister on how many occasions he has travelled *(a)* first and *(b)* standard class by train on official duties since 7 May 2010. [18607]

The Prime Minister: I travel making the most efficient and cost-effective arrangements, including by train. My travel arrangements are in accordance with the arrangements for official travel set out in chapter 10 of the 'Ministerial Code'. Most recently, I travelled by train to the Permanent Joint Headquarters in Northwood on Tuesday, 19 October 2010.

National Security Staff College

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Prime Minister whether he has made an assessment of the merits of implementing the recommendation of Sir Richard Dearlove on the establishment of a National Security Staff College. [16895]

The Prime Minister: An important part of the Government's approach to national security is developing the skills of the individuals involved in this work. The UK Defence Academy intends to run a pilot course in leadership and national security for candidates from across government in October. After this initial pilot we will consider using this model more widely as part of a training programme for senior staff.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Commonwealth Development Corporation

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the statement of 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 505-06, on public bodies reform what the technical functions performed by the Commonwealth Development Corporation are; and what consideration was given to transferring it to the private sector. [18175]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Since 2004, CDC has operated as a Fund of Funds investment company, placing its capital with private equity funds, which in turn invest in promising businesses in the poorer developing countries. I believe CDC has the potential to be the jewel in the crown of the UK's support to the private sector in developing countries and at the forefront of the Government's approach to wealth creation.

Private companies are answerable to their shareholders and focus on achieving the best possible return on their investment. By keeping CDC within public control we can ensure developmental returns are at the heart of their efforts, alongside financial returns.

Public Expenditure

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans he has to publish equality impact assessments undertaken by his Department as part of the comprehensive spending review; and if he will make a statement. [18194]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) is taking equality into account in its work towards the spending review. Where appropriate, equality impact assessments will be carried out and published on DFID's external website.

Saint Helena: Health Services

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) whether he plans to publish the findings of the review of health care on Saint Helena; [18212]

(2) when he expects the review of health care on Saint Helena to be concluded. [18213]

Mr Duncan: St Helena Council commissioned an independent medical review of a specific incident reported in the *St Helena Independent* on 11 June 2011. The St Helena Government issued a press release on 1 October, confirming that the review had been completed and shared with parties concerned. Its detailed content is confidential and cannot be made public unless the parties concerned choose to disclose it.

St Helena Council also recommended the introduction of an external audit regime to monitor the suitability of heath sector provision in St Helena. The St Helena Government has yet to implement the recommendation.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

British Indian Ocean Territory: Fisheries

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress his Department has made on the establishment of a marine protected area in the British Indian Ocean Territory. [18332]

Mr Bellingham: The Government believe that the Marine Protected Area (MPA) proclaimed in the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) on 1 April 2010 by the BIOT Commissioner is the right way forward for furthering the environmental protection of the territory and encouraging others to do the same in important and vulnerable areas under their control.

The BIOT Administration are no longer issuing new fishing licences but are honouring those already issued. These licences expire at the end of October.

The BIOT Administration are continuing to work on the implementation of the MPA. This includes preparing implementing legislation in BIOT law, enforcement arrangements, establishing administrative and scientific research frameworks, funding, dialogue with interested parties and exploring the opportunities for involving representatives of the Chagossian community in environmental work in the territory.

Burma: Human Rights

Yvette Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps his Department has taken in the UN Human Rights Council to achieve the release of political prisoners in Burma. [18236]

Mr Hague: The UK raised human rights in Burma at the Human Rights Council in September. Both the UK and EU called for the release of political prisoners in Burma in their statements on Countries of Concern. The EU also raised political prisoners in their response to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights opening statement. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is currently working to achieve a robust resolution on human rights in Burma at the United Nations General Assembly Third Committee and intends to work on a further resolution on Burma at the next session of the Human Rights Council in March. I regularly raise the situation in Burma with my counterparts in the region. We continue to support the work of Mr Tomas Ojea Quintana, the United Nations Special Rapporteur for human rights in Burma, mandated by the Human Rights Council.

Gambia: Human Rights

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on *(a)* the human rights situation and *(b)* freedom of the press in the Gambia. [18517]

Mr Bellingham: Our high commission in Banjul regularly raises human rights concerns with the Government of the Gambia both bilaterally and also in its capacity as permanent local presidency of the European Union. Most recently my hon. Friend, the Minister for Africa, raised concerns with the Gambian Minister for Foreign Affairs on 14 September 2010 in London. We also set out our position at the EU/Gambia article 8 consultations held on 9 June 2010 in Banjul and during the Gambia's Universal Periodic Review session in the UN on 10 February 2010.

The Gambia has signed all major United Nations human rights conventions and we expect the Gambia to fulfil these obligations. We will continue to raise concerns about freedom of expression and other human rights and good governance issues bilaterally, through the European Union and internationally.

Ilois: Resettlement

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 19 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 493-94W, on Ilois: resettlement, on what date the US administration first communicated to his Department its present policy on resettlement of the Chagos Islands; who in the US administration made the original policy statement; at what level of the US administration was the policy most recently reconfirmed; what information he has received from the US administration on the nature of its present concerns; and on what occasion he last discussed the issue with his US counterpart. [19185]

Mr Bellingham: The 1966 Exchange of Notes which concerns the Availability for Defence Purposes of the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) was signed on behalf of the US Government by Mr David Bruce, the US ambassador, on 30 December 1966. This Exchange of Notes made the whole of the territory available for defence purposes—not just Diego Garcia. US concerns over resettlement were set out in letters from the State Department in November 2004 and January 2006. US concerns over the implications of resettlement were most recently reconfirmed in October 2010 during the formal UK/US Political-Military Talks on BIOT when US officials set out the US Government's position.

Nigeria: Christianity

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the Government of Nigeria on the treatment of Christians in that country. [18373]

Mr Bellingham: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not made representations to the Government of Nigeria on the treatment of Christians in Nigeria. However, our high commission and Department for International Development (DFID) in Nigeria have supported non-governmental organisations in northern Nigeria to facilitate dialogue between Christian and Muslim communities, both of whom have suffered from appalling violence this year. We continue to stress to Nigerian authorities at state and federal level the need to ensure that Nigerian citizens of all religious affiliations have the security and protection required to worship freely and live their lives in accordance with their beliefs.

DFID and our high commission in Abuja are also exploring further ways in which they can help the process of reconciliation between religious and ethnic communities in Plateau State, and continue to impress on state and federal authorities the importance of bringing those responsible for crimes to justice. We encourage the Nigerian Government to fully consider the implementation of recommendations made in the recent report of the Presidential Committee on the Jos Crisis.

Poland: Political Parties

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 18 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 495-96W, on Poland: political parties, if he will publish the advice he received on the position on homophobia and racism of the Law and Justice Party in Poland. [18609]

Mr Lidington: It is our policy not to refer to internal comments passed to Ministers However, I can confirm as per the previous question from my hon. Friend, that I receive regular reporting from our embassy in Poland covering the political and economic situation in Poland.

Serbia: EU External Relations

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his timetable is for UK ratification of the EU's stabilisation and association agreement with Serbia. [18428]

Mr Lidington: The Government are in the process of ratifying Serbia's Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) with the European Union. The SAA treaty was laid before Parliament during the summer recess and, in accordance with the "Ponsonby rule", will not be ratified until at least 21 sitting days have expired. Those 21 sitting days began on 11 October. After the 21 days a draft Order in Council can be laid to enable the SAA to be specified as an EU treaty under the European Communities Act 1972. That draft Order will be subject to affirmative resolution procedure.

The Government strongly support enlargement of the European Union to the countries of the western Balkans, subject to the accession criteria being met. It considers the decision by EU member states to proceed with ratification of Serbia's SAA to be a welcome and important step forward in the development of Serbia's relationship with the EU.

Sri Lanka: Human Rights

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Office of the UN High Representative for Human Rights on human rights in Sri Lanka. [18343]

Alistair Burt: We regularly raise human rights issues with a broad range of UN agencies, including the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and with human rights organisations. Following the end of the military conflict, there has been some improvement in the human rights situation, but we remain concerned about a number of issues, including the difficult environment for freedom of expression and the continued detention of approximately 7,500 ex-combatants whose legal status is not clear.

When I met the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister on 19 October, I raised these and other issues of concern.

Sri Lanka: War Crimes

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the prospects for an independent investigation into allegations of war crimes in Sri Lanka. [18344]

Alistair Burt: We have consistently called for a credible, independent and transparent investigation into allegations of violations of international human rights and humanitarian law in Sri Lanka. Unless there is an honest process of accountability for the past, these allegations will haunt the country for many years to come, and will hinder much needed reconciliation between the communities.

The Government of Sri Lanka have established a 'Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission' to look at conflict issues in the period 2002 to May 2009. We welcomed the creation of this commission and have urged that it should conduct its business in an independent, transparent and credible way. We are encouraging the Sri Lankan Government to promote engagement between the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission and the UN Panel of Experts established to advise the UN Secretary-General on the issue of accountability in Sri Lanka.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departmental Manpower

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many officials his Department has appointed on fixed-term contracts since 7 May 2010. [16801]

Chris Grayling: Part-month data are not available. The number of staff recruited on a fixed-term appointment from 1 May 2010 to 30 September 2010 is 210.

At 1 May 2010 the Department employed 119,099 members of staff. At 30 September 2010 the Department employed 114,985 members of staff.

Farms: Health and Safety

Mr Spencer: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he plans to take to reduce the incidence of *(a)* injury and *(b)* infection among visitors to farm parks; and if he will make a statement. [17547]

Chris Grayling: The incidence of both injury and infection to visitors at farm parks (also known as open farms, visitor farm attractions and petting farms) is believed to be very low when set in the context of the 5-10 million visitors each year. However, no single classification system exists to identify such attractions so more specific incidence rates cannot be established.

However, as with any other leisure activities which provide valuable educational and life experiences, these cannot be made risk-free. Any case of injury or infection, albeit rare, can of course have very serious consequences for the individuals and families affected.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and local authorities are continuing to work with industry bodies and operators to achieve a sensible balance between risks and safety measures. In particular, following the publication in June 2010 of a report by Professor George Griffin to the Health Protection Agency (HPA) into the most serious outbreak of *E. coli* O157 to occur in the UK from animal contact, HSE in conjunction with HPA, Local Government Regulation, other Government Departments and industry stakeholders, is considering the recommendations in the report and is reviewing its current guidance.

Housing Benefit: Gateshead

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in the Gateshead Metropolitan Council area are in receipt of housing benefit; and how many are *(a)* not of working age, *(b)* in work and *(c)* not in work. [17965]

Steve Webb: As at July 2010, the Department estimates for Gateshead local authority:

(a) 7,480 Housing Benefit recipients are aged 65 or over. This equates to 35% of the total Housing Benefit caseload in Gateshead local authority.

(b) 2,100 non-passported recipients of Housing Benefit are in employment. This equates to 10% of the total Housing Benefit caseload in Gateshead local authority.

(c) 4,230 non-passported recipients of Housing Benefit and 15,400 passported recipients of Housing Benefit are not in employment.

Notes:

1. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.

2. The figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.

3. Housing Benefit figures exclude any Extended Payment cases. An Extended Payment is a payment that may be received for a further four weeks when they start working full time, work more hours or earn more money.

4. SHBE is a monthly electronic scan of claimant level data direct from local authority computer systems. It replaces quarterly aggregate clerical returns. The data are available monthly from November 2008 and July 2010 are the latest available.

5. Figures are at 10 July 2010.

6. Data from SHBE incorporate the local authority changes from 1 April 2009.

7. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

8. People claiming Housing Benefit not in receipt of a passported benefit are recorded as being in employment if their local authority has recorded employment income from either the main claimant, or partner of claimant (if applicable), in calculating the housing benefit award.

9. Passported Status does not include recipients with unknown passported status.

10. Age groups are based on the age on the count date (second Thursday in the month), of either:

(a) the recipient if they are single, or

(b) the elder of the recipient or partner if claiming as a couple

Jobcentre Plus: Offices

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many local Jobcentre Plus offices were *(a)* opened, *(b)* relocated and *(c)* closed in each of the last five years. [17600]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many local Jobcentre Plus offices were (a) opened (b) relocated and (c) closed in each of the last five years. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

We do not hold information on Jobcentres under the specific category of re-location. This is because local Jobcentre Plus offices came into being as a result of the decision to merge the former Benefits Agency and Employment Service in 2002. At the point of merger, the two organisations had offices which, in many instances, were geographically close to each other and provided opportunities to rationalise the estate. The category of 'opened' Jobcentres covers former Benefits Agency and Employment Service buildings that were converted to deliver a modernised integrated service.

The information available is in the table below:

Number

	Transformed jobcentres rolled out by Jobcentre Plus	*Jobcentre Plus offices open to the public and subsequently closed*
2005	163	99
2006	142	157
2007	13	49
2008	4	54
2009	0	3
Total	322	362

Source:
Jobcentre Plus.

Altogether, 362 Jobcentre Plus offices previously open to the public have been closed within the last 5 full calendar years. In rationalising our estate we have maintained excellent high street coverage, providing a single integrated customer facing office, whilst at the same time reducing cost to the tax payer.

Motability

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people who are in receipt of disability living allowance as a consequence of *(a)* a physical disability, *(b)* a mental health condition and *(c)* another condition were granted cars under the Motability scheme in the latest period for which figures are available. [17671]

Maria Miller: Disability living allowance (DLA) higher rate mobility component is not awarded on the basis of an individual's health condition but is awarded on the basis of the help that they need as a result of their mobility difficulties. This information is therefore not available in the format requested. However, there are currently around 550,000 recipients of the higher rate mobility component of DLA who have a car with the Motability scheme.

National Insurance: Foreign Nationals

Mr Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many national insurance numbers were issued to foreign nationals in each local authority area *(a)* in each year since 1 January 2005 and *(b)* in each of the last eight quarters for which figures are available. [18843]

Chris Grayling: The information requested has been placed in the Library for both Houses.

Remploy

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people Remploy employs in *(a)* Wrexham, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* the UK. [18695]

Maria Miller: The number of people employed by Remploy in Wrexham, Wales and the UK are shown in the following table.

	Enterprise Business[1]	*Other employees*	*Total*
Wrexham	52	10	62
Wales	605	157	762
UK	3,505	1,752	5,257

[1] Including factories and Future Jobs Fund trainees

Note:
Remploy figures for September 2010

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions he had with *(a)* trades union representatives and *(b)* Remploy employees before making his announcement that Remploy's future was under consideration. [18865]

Maria Miller: As announced in the review of public bodies on 14 October, the status of Remploy Ltd as a non-departmental public body remains under consideration as part of a Government wide review of such bodies.

The Minister with responsibility for disabled people the hon. Member for Basingstoke (Maria Miller) and departmental officials recently met with trade union representatives to listen to their views on the future of Remploy. We will continue to work with and listen to the views of the trade unions, Remploy employees and all those who have a close interest in Remploy.

Social Security Benefits

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the monetary value of welfare payments paid to *(a)* non-UK citizens of each country living in the UK, *(b)* UK citizens living in each country in the European Economic Area and *(c)* non-UK citizens of each country living in each non-EU country in the latest period for which figures are available; and how many recipients of such benefits there were in each such group in that period. [17445]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not available. The information there is on benefit claimants resident overseas and the expenditure on them is as follows:

Benefit expenditure paid outside the United Kingdom for 2009/10 is shown in the table.

Expenditure for state pension paid abroad, at country level is published on the internet at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/sp_historical_overseas_expenditure.xls

The figures for 2009-10 will be updated when available.

Information relating to benefits paid to recipients abroad is available via the Tabulation Tool at:

http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=tabtool

DWP benefit expenditure paid overseas in 2009-10

	£ million
State pension	2,760
Incapacity benefit	45
Bereavement benefit	19
Winter fuel payments	14
Industrial injuries benefits	12
Disability living allowance	11
Statutory maternity pay	4
Attendance allowance	2
Maternity allowance	1

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest £1 million
2. All figures are consistent with expenditure information published on the internet at:
www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/expenditure.asp
Source:
DWP statistical and accounting data

Social Security Benefits: Eligibility

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what arrangements his Department has in place to assess the basic skills of benefit claimants. [17599]

Chris Grayling: Jobseeker's allowance claimants and those recipients of other benefits who are participating in back-to-work programmes have their basic skills assessed through the gathering of evidence during work-focused interviews. Through this, Jobcentre Plus advisers can identify whether the customer may have a skills barrier that is preventing them achieving their job goal, thus enabling them to make informed decisions on skills needs. For example, for jobseekers the initial skills screening is undertaken at the new jobseeker interview and then reviewed periodically throughout the claim. Depending on the outcome of this initial skills screening, the claimant may be referred to an appropriate training provider or advice centre.

Longer-term jobseeker's allowance customers are subject to in-depth skills screening, which is a more detailed approach to gathering information on skills and specific barriers to the jobs being sought by the jobseeker. In-depth screening involves the use of screening tools for basic skills, systematic evidence gathering and a customer assessment tool. Depending on the outcome of this initial skills screening, the claimant may be referred to an appropriate training provider.

The Work programme and associated Jobcentre Plus support will further align welfare-to-work and skills services for both claimants and employers to deliver a service that will help people get the skills they need to get into and progress in work and for employers to have employees with the right skills for the job.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what changes his Department has made to the level of funding provided for counter-fraud activity by local authorities in the last five years. [18094]

Steve Webb: The Department for Work and Pensions distributes an annual grant to local authorities for administration of housing benefit and council tax benefit. The Department considers counter-fraud activity to be an integral aspect of administering these benefits. It is for individual authorities to decide on the resources they need to administer efficient counter-fraud activity.

Over the past five years, the funding that the Department has provided to the local authorities is set out in the following table.

£ million

	Funding	*Additional funding in respect of the economic downturn*	*Total*
2006-07	555.00		555.00
2007-08	555.00		555.00
2008-09	541.49		541.49
2009-10	528.30	75.00	603.30

£ million

	Funding	*Additional funding in respect of the economic downturn*	*Total*
2010-11	515.40	50.00	565.40

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effects on the present level of local authority activity in respect of detecting housing benefit and council tax benefit fraud of changes in the level of funding for such activity. [18113]

Steve Webb: The amount of subsidy that the Department for Work and Pensions has provided to local authorities in recent years to administer housing benefit and council tax benefit has remained relatively stable. The Department however is not prescriptive in how local authorities use this funding. It is for individual authorities to decide on the resources they need to administer efficient and effective counter-fraud activity.

£ million

	Funding	*Additional funding in respect of the economic downturn*	*Total*
2006-07	555.00		555.00
2007-08	555.00		555.00
2008-09	541.49		541.49
2009-10	528.30	75	603.30
2010-11	515.40	50	565.40

The Department published a new fraud and error strategy on 18 October 2010 which sets out its plans for improving detection of fraud across all benefits, including housing benefit and council tax benefit.

Social Security Benefits: Widowed People

Mr Burley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether those paying tax at the higher rate will continue to be eligible for widowed parent's allowance in 2013. [17864]

Chris Grayling: There are no current plans to change eligibility for widowed parent's allowance for higher-rate taxpayers.

Social Security Benefits: Worcestershire

Mr Robin Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households in *(a)* Worcestershire and *(b)* Worcester were in receipt of benefits excluding those on disability living allowance of over £500 per week in the latest period for which figures are available. [17630]

Maria Miller: The information requested is available only at Great Britain level. Latest estimates show that in 2010-11 there are around 100,000 working age households in receipt of more than £500 a week in all benefits and tax credits, including disability living allowance. If disability living allowance is excluded then around 50,000 working age households are in receipt of more than £500 a week.

The Chancellor's announcement of a benefit cap was informed by high-level consideration of the broad impacts. We are now working up the more detailed design of the caps. When we introduce legislation for the implementation of the caps, we will publish an impact assessment.

Note:

All figures are rounded to the nearest 50,000.

Source:

DWP Policy Simulation Model, based on the 2008-09 Family Resources Survey data.

Unemployment: Young People

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent steps his Department has taken to reduce unemployment for 18 to 24 year olds. [17598]

Chris Grayling: The Government are committed to tackling youth unemployment. We will be introducing the new Work Programme in the summer of 2011. While the Work Programme will be an integrated package of support providing personalised help to support a wide range of customers, including young people, we have recognised that this in itself it will not be enough.

On 4 October we launched two new measures: Work Clubs as a way of encouraging people who are out of work to exchange skills and share experiences; and Work Together as a way of developing work skills through volunteering. We also announced the new enterprise allowance which will support unemployed people who wish to move off benefits into self employment.

We are continuing to develop further measures to encourage pre-employment training and work placements through Service Academies, and to provide greater insight into the world of work through work experience.

Winter Fuel Payments

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent representations he has received on the payment of winter fuel allowance to higher rate taxpayers. [18087]

Steve Webb: We have received a small number of representations about the payment of winter fuel payments to higher rate taxpayers.

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people resident overseas received winter fuel allowance in the latest period for which figures are available. [18139]

Steve Webb: In 2009-10 we made 70,880 winter fuel payments to people living in the European Economic Area and Switzerland.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate 100%

Winter Fuel Payments: Livingston

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the total monetary value was of winter fuel payments paid to recipients in Livingston constituency in 2009-10. [18632]

Steve Webb: The information is tabled as follows:

Winter fuel payments paid in Livingston constituency, 2009-10

£ million (nominal terms)	3.8

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest £ hundred thousand.

2. Tables containing benefit expenditure by benefit, local authority and parliamentary constituency can be found at the following URL: http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/index.php?page=expenditure

Source:

DWP Statistical and Accounting Data.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Manpower

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many new staff his Department has employed since 24 May 2010; and what the *(a)* grade, *(b)* job title and *(c)* salary of each is. [18382]

John Penrose: Since 24 May 2010, the Department has appointed three officials on fixed-term contracts.

The table shows the fixed-term posts by salary range, grade and their full-time equivalent.

Disclosure of the job title and exact salary of each official could lead to the identification of individuals, and is therefore confidential information.

Grade	*Salary range (£)*	*FTE*
D	19,306-21,023	1
C	23,197-25,952	0.9
A(U)	52,963-66,025	1

Mental Illness

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the recommendations relating to his Department of the report by the Government Office for Science, Foresight on Mental Capital and Wellbeing; if he will ensure that his Department's policy development process takes account of psychological research into subjective wellbeing; and if he will make a statement. [18457]

John Penrose: I have not made an assessment of the findings of the report by the Government Office for Science, Foresight on Mental Capital and Wellbeing. I will ensure that it is brought to the attention of the DCMS Policy Committee and the HR team.

This Department takes the health and well-being of its staff seriously.

We work closely with Robertson Cooper, business and well-being experts, and have membership to the Business and Well-being network, run by them, to ensure we are providing the most appropriate support for staff, including mental and physical well-being.

National Lottery: Finance

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will bring forward proposals to enable local authorities to apply for funding from the national lottery, and if he will make a statement. [19013]

John Penrose: Local authorities are already able to apply for national lottery funding.

We are currently consulting on a new policy direction for one distributor, the Big Lottery Fund, to focus its funding through the voluntary and community sector.

The intention behind the new direction is that social enterprises and joint ventures between the voluntary and community sector and local authorities, would still be eligible for funding.

TRANSPORT

Aviation: Wind Power

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the loss of potential energy production caused by disallowing the construction of wind turbines within 15km of an airport runway in the last 12 months. [18453]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport has not made any such estimate.

Railways

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of *(a)* the use of the Airedale line by Network Rail and *(b)* its Northern Route Utilisation Strategy. [18926]

Mrs Villiers: We welcome the work that Network Rail has carried out, along with rail industry partners, in developing the draft Northern Route Utilisation Strategy, including its assessment of the Airedale line. When finalised, the strategy will provide a valuable input into the work that the Department for Transport will undertake in determining the outputs the railway needs to deliver during the period 2014 to 2019 and beyond.

Rapid Transit Systems: Dunstable

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport from which groups based in Dunstable his Department has received representations in support of the proposed Luton to Dunstable guided busway. [18659]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport has been unable to find evidence of any representations from groups based in Dunstable in support of the Luton to Dunstable guided busway.

Shipping: Pollution

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport to how many tier *(a)* one, *(b)* two and *(c)* three incidents relating to pollution from shipping and offshore installations the Maritime and Coastguard Agency has responded in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [18449]

Mike Penning: The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) does not maintain statistics on maritime pollution incident response by tier.

The MCA maintains specific statistics in relation to tier 3 responses. For the years in question these are as follows:

	Total pollution incidents to which the MCA responded	*Tier 3*
2007	708	1
2008	654	2
2009	578	0

Wrecks: Salvage

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many Receiver of Wreck reports the Maritime and Coastguard Agency has received in the last 12 months. [18450]

Mike Penning: In the last 12 months, October 2009 to September 2010, the Receiver of Wreck at the Maritime and Coastguard Agency has received 348 reports.

DEFENCE

AWE Management

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 29-30W, on AWE management, what estimate he has made of the cost of each new build project in the Atomic Weapons Establishment Site Development Context Plan at current prices; and what the planned in-service date for each project is. [17926]

Peter Luff: The 23 projects included in the Atomic Weapons Establishment Site Development Context Plan 2005-15 are listed in the following table. The functions of the projects given in the table correlate with the headings in the site development plan.

Where applicable, the names of projects are indicated where they have been finalised. Costs not shown are being withheld as their disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice commercial interests. Projected in-service dates are shown in bandings to avoid prejudice to national security and/or defence interests.

Project name	*Function*	*Cost (£ million)*[1]
Completed projects		
IT server buildings (two projects)	Computer/ communications	32
New office accommodation Phase 1—Gemini (two buildings)	Office and business support accommodation	76
Modular accommodation (five buildings)	Office and business support accommodation	27
Car park/landscaping	Office and business support/ environmental	3
Projected in-service period 2010-15		
Orion Laser	Testing/research	183
Small components interim—Leo	Manufacturing/ production	16
High explosives climatic trials	Manufacturing/ production	—
Hydrodynamics—Hydrus	Testing/research	—
High performance computer—Orchard	Computing/ communications	—
High explosives fabrication—Circinus	Manufacturing/ production	—
Chemical processing	Manufacturing/ production	—
Landscaping	Environmental	—
Projected in-service period 2016-20		
Warhead assembly/ disassembly—Mensa	Manufacturing/ production	—
Uranium components—Pegasus	Manufacturing/ production	—
High explosives assembly for trials	Testing/research	—
Small components	Testing/research	—
Laboratory	Testing/research	—
Projects not taken forward where alternative solutions found		
New office accommodation Phase 2	Office and business support accommodation	—
New office accommodation Phase 3	Office and business support accommodation	—
Systems engineering	Manufacturing/ production	—

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[1] 2010-11 prices.

Departmental Contracts

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what contracts his Department has awarded to voluntary sector organisations in the last two years; and what the monetary value was of each such contract. [17248]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 13 October 2010]:* Voluntary sector organisations are not separately identified in central records and therefore information about contracts with these organisations could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Contracts are not the only financial relationships between the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and voluntary sector organisations. Voluntary sector organisations such as the Royal British Legion, that deliver outcomes which support the core defence mission, also receive a grant in aid. The MOD paid some £118 million in grants in aid in 2008-09 and some £135 million in 2009-10 (excluding MOD's non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs)).

Departmental Disabled Staff

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department is taking to ensure his Department's activities are compliant with the provisions of Article 27 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with disabilities on work and employment. [17889]

Mr Robathan: The armed forces were exempted from the employment provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA). The continuing need for this was reviewed during the development of the recent Equality Bill. It was concluded that the exemption was still required and it has accordingly been replicated in the Equality Act 2010. A reservation on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was entered accordingly.

For our civilians, the Ministry of Defence has policies in place to help enable disabled employees to maximise their potential and to work on an equal basis with their colleagues. The Department is a member of the Employers' Forum on Disability.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department is taking to improve its level of compliance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [16934]

Mr Robathan: A number of measures have been taken to improve the Ministry of Defence's performance in responding to requests for information (RFIs) under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI). The Second Permanent Secretary wrote earlier this year to all of MOD's business areas to highlight the problem and push for a concerted corporate effort at improvement. The Head of Corporate Information writes periodically to business units to provide an update on performance and encourage improvement. In addition, a number of steps are in hand to strengthen the central Freedom of Information team and to streamline the processes involved in handling RFIs. The central FOI team have also visited several business units to provide advice and guidance on FOI.

Departmental Travel

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the value for money of travel undertaken by officials of his Department in the UK and overseas under its rules on such travel. [17673]

Mr Robathan: We constantly seek to get the best value for money out of our travel arrangements and maximise the Ministry of Defence's corporate leverage in the business travel market. We are currently phasing in an on-line booking tool for use across the MOD, both in the UK and overseas. This tool makes it cheaper and simpler to make travel arrangements and gives our staff easy access to the best value fares and a wide range of travel options, including scheduled and low-cost air carriers, UK rail, UK and overseas hotels and overseas car hire.

Other recent changes made to give better value for money have included: the removal of all first class air travel and, in all but exceptional circumstances, first class rail and business class air travel. There are constraints on non-operational travel overseas and senior officials have given up their allocated cars and share a smaller number of pooled cars instead.

We have additionally asked our staff to avoid travel at all where the business need can be met in other ways, such as by e-mail and video or audio conferencing. This both saves cost and increases the productivity of staff, by reducing time spent travelling.

By whatever means staff decide to travel, they must do so in a way that is the most economical in both money and official time.

European Fighter Aircraft

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment his Department has made of the safety of the *(a)* Martin Baker Mk 16A and *(b)* Martin Baker Mk 10B ejection seat. [18016]

Peter Luff: The safety and airworthiness of all systems on our aircraft types is continually assessed.

On 27 July 2010 an issue was identified with surface cracks on Martin-Baker Mk10B ejection seats fitted in Hawk T1 aircraft. On 14 September 2010 an issue was identified with the harness system on Martin-Baker Mk16A seats fitted to Typhoon aircraft. In each case non-operationally essential flying was briefly suspended, while a full risk assessment of each issue was undertaken.

Departmental officials worked closely with Martin-Baker and BAE Systems to design inspection processes and modifications that successfully addressed the issues identified. The Hawk T1 and Typhoon aircraft are now airworthy and available for operational tasking.

Nuclear Power: Decommissioning

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much *(a)* low, *(b)* very low and *(c)* intermediate level radioactive waste he expects to arise from decommissioning activities at Atomic Weapons Establishments in each of the next three years. [17294]

Peter Luff: The current forecasts for quantities of radioactive waste, in cubic metres, are:

	2010-11	*2011-12*	*2012-13*
Very low level waste	1,600	3,080	2,220
Low level waste	1,330	1,450	740
Intermediate level waste	150	60	50

The figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 cubic metres. They are based on current Atomic Weapons Establishments decommissioning plans, which may be subject to change.

On current plans the very low level waste (VLLW) site will become available by October 2011.

Until this site is available, VLLW is stored with low level waste, prior to being transported to the low level waste repository at Drigg, Cumbria.

Intermediate level waste is stored in purpose built stores at AWE Aldermaston.

Service Personnel and Veterans Agency

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had with the Chief Executive of the Service and Veterans Personnel Agency on the work of that agency; and if he will make a statement. [18452]

Mr Robathan: I meet regularly with the chief executive of the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency to discuss the services provided by the agency.

USA: Arms Trade

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the decision was taken to engage O'Brien and Associates to advise the British Embassy in Washington in respect of arms sales by UK companies to the US administration; how much has been paid to O'Brien and Associates from the public purse to date; and to whom in his Department the company reports for the purposes of this contract. [17647]

Peter Luff: The British embassy defence staff in Washington DC has contracted with O'Brien and Associates since January 2006 to source specialist advice to the UK Ministry of Defence on a variety of US defence acquisition issues, including trade and countering so-called 'protectionism', in Congress. O'Brien and Associates has not been contracted to influence defence exports by UK companies to the US Administration, but rather to provide regular advice and information on major US defence equipment programmes and relevant budget issues, principally as they pass through Congress. The current contract started in January 2010 and expires in December 2010 and fees are paid by the hour for services provided, based upon tasking by embassy staff. Total fees paid to O'Brien and Associates from 2006 are approximately $500,000.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions his Department has had with the US Administration on the UK-US defence export treaty; and if he will make a statement. [18017]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence regularly discusses the UK-US Defence Trade Co-operation Treaty with the US Administration. The treaty is evidence of the close defence relationship between our countries and achieved a major milestone when it was approved by the US Senate on 29 September 2010 allowing preparations for implementation to begin. By simplifying export licensing arrangements, for items destined for UK or US Government end-use, the treaty will help improve interoperability and the support provided to our armed forces. We envisage that the detailed preparations required to bring the treaty arrangements into effect will take up to 12 months and will be conducted in close consultation with the US Administration and with UK and US industries.

Written Questions: Government Responses

John Glen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he plans to provide a substantive reply to *(a)* question 17459, on Harrier and Tornado capability, tabled on 11 October 2010 for named day answer on 14 October and *(b)* 17185, on harmony regulations, tabled on 8 October 2010 for named day answer on 12 October. [18651]

Peter Luff: I replied to the hon. Member's question, regarding Harrier and Tornado capability, on 18 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 488W.

The Minister for Defence Personnel, Welfare and Veterans the hon. Member for South Leicestershire (Mr Robathan) replied to the hon. Member's question, regarding harmony regulations, on 18 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 483W.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Subsidies

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she plans to make any changes to subsidy arrangements for farming in the light of the current economic situation. [18012]

Mr Paice: The vast majority of the over £3 billion of payments made each year to UK farmers fall within the framework of the EU common agriculture policy (CAP). The UK is pressing for ambitious reform of the CAP that delivers better value for money for farmers, taxpayers and consumers. A Commission communication on a potential reform post-2013 is expected shortly.

Animal Welfare: Advertising

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much her Department spent on *(a)* print press, *(b)* television, *(c)* internet and *(d)* poster material to raise awareness among the general public of the potential risk from illegal imports of products of animal origin in each of the last five years. [18397]

Mr Paice: Since October 2004, DEFRA has led communications targeted at black and minority ethnic (BME) communities where the rules have been particularly relevant. The target audiences have mainly been defined by the number of animal product seizures made from countries outside the EU, but other issues, such as the independent research carried out, have also been considered.

The BME campaign has been a key strand of a wider personal food imports campaign, which targets members of the public travelling from GB to countries outside the EU who may bring back food items for personal use. The UK Border Agency (UKBA) have also communicated wider messages around the restrictions at GB points of entry and departure in GB and overseas.

Overall, we are looking to reduce the risk of contaminated food (in particular meat and dairy products as higher risk products) being brought into the UK and putting people, animals and agriculture at risk of disease and possibly sparking a national outbreak of, for example, foot and mouth disease or bird flu.

Communication spend over the last five financial years on press, TV, internet and posters, is as follows:

£

Activity	*Media total*	*Print*	*TV*	*Poster*	*Internet*
BME TV			15,000.00		

Activity	*Media total*	*Print*	*TV*	*Poster*	£ *Internet*
BME Press Advertising		42,000.00			
BME Posters and Leaflets		9,945.00			
Total 2005-06	66,945.00	51,945.00	15,000.00	0.00	0.00
BME Outdoor		—		51,180.00	
BME Press Advertising	—	42,316.00			
BME Posters and Leaflets	—	3,717.00			
Online Activity				—	198,000.00
Total 2006-07	295,213.00	46,033.00	0.00	51,180.00	198,000.00
BME TV		—	26,320.00		
BME Posters and Leaflets	—	10,810.00			
BME Press Advertising	—	20,125.00			
Illegal Food Imports TV Filler	—	—	90,993.00		
Online				—	254,898.00
Total 2007-08	403,146.00	30,935.00	117,313.00	0.00	254,898.00
BME TV		—	30,478.00		
BME Press Advertising	—	41,055.00			
BME Posters and Leaflets	—	17,740.00			
BME Online	—	—			[illegible]00.00
Search activity		—		—	3,389.00
Total 2008-09	93,062.00	58,795.00	30,478.00	0.00	3,789.00
BME TV		—	46,071.00		
BME Press Advertising	—	15,068.00			
BME Posters and Leaflets	—	15,761.00			
Total 2009-10	76,900.00	30,829.00	46,071.00	0.00	0.00

Badgers: Research

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many badger cage traps the Food and Environment Research Agency held for the purpose of research funded by her Department in the latest period for which figures are available. [18391]

Mr Paice: The Food and Environment Research Agency (FERA) holds over 600 badger cage traps for the purpose of research funded by DEFRA.

Devon and Severn Inshore Fisheries Conservation Area

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what length of coastline within the Gloucestershire County Council area is to be used as the basis for calculating the sum to be contributed by that local authority to the funding of the Devon and Severn Inshore Fisheries Conservation Area. [18116]

Richard Benyon: In calculating the sum to be contributed by each constituent local authority within an IFCA, DEFRA has used the definitions of the sea used in the Marine and Coastal Access Act; the "sea" includes:

(a) any area submerged at mean high water spring tide; and

(b) the waters of every estuary, river or channel, so far as the tide flows at mean high water spring tide.

The 'seashore' is defined as the shore and the bed of the sea.

The length of seashore used in the calculation to reach Gloucestershire county council's share of the levy is 94.40 miles, as calculated by the UK Hydrographic Office.

The full rationale for the inclusion and contribution of any one local authority can be found in the consultation on the principles and content of the Orders establishing Inshore Fisheries and Conservation districts and their associated authorities which can be found on the DEFRA website:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/inshore-fisheries 2010/index.htm

Equine Infectious Anaemia

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on what date she notified the devolved administrations of the recent outbreak of equine infectious anaemia. [18809]

Mr Paice: There have been two recent cases of equine infectious anaemia (EIA) in England.

The first was in Northumberland and the devolved Administrations were first alerted that EIA was suspected on 3 September. Disease was confirmed on 6 September following receipt of positive test results.

The second case was in Devon and the devolved Administrations were first alerted that EIA was suspected on 8 September. Disease was confirmed on 11 September following receipt of positive test results.

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on what date she was notified of the recent outbreak of equine infectious anaemia. [18810]

Mr Paice: There have been two recent cases of equine infectious anaemia in England.

The first was in Northumberland and the Secretary of State and I were notified on the day that disease was confirmed, 6 September.

The second case was in Devon and the Secretary of State's Private Office was alerted that disease was suspected on 8 September. The Secretary of State and I were next updated on the developing disease situation by the Chief Veterinary Officer on 10 September in advance of disease being confirmed on 11 September.

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the *(a)* risk of importing and *(b)* threat from (i) equine infectious anaemia and (ii) other exotic animal diseases into the UK. [18805]

Mr Paice: DEFRA continually monitors occurrence of major animal disease outbreaks worldwide as an early warning to assess the risk these events may pose to the UK. DEFRA assesses new disease incidents in EU member states, countries on the borders of the EU and the UK's third country trading partners. More generally, DEFRA monitors the disease situation worldwide with a view to identifying any significant incursion of disease to new areas of the world or longer term trends in levels or distribution of disease.

When DEFRA becomes aware of a new animal disease outbreak in another country, we may carry out a preliminary outbreak assessment. Details of the outbreak assessments published since 2008 are available here:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/farmanimal/diseases/monitoring/poa.htm

When DEFRA is officially notified of any new animal disease incident in an EU member state, a country on the border of the EU or one of the UK's third country trading partners, a more detailed qualitative risk analysis (QRA) is carried out. Details of the QRAs published since 2008 are available here:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/farmanimal/diseases/monitoring/riskassess.htm

In March this year, DEFRA published a qualitative risk assessment "Potential risk factors for the introduction of Equine Infectious Anaemia (EIA) to the United Kingdom from EU Member States" which concluded that there was a very low likelihood that EIA may be present and undetected in the UK equine population. Of the three confirmed EIA cases this year, two were found shortly after importation to the UK. The infected horse in the third case had been in the country for two years but investigations suggest that the risk of spread is low.

Equine Infectious Anaemia: EU Countries

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the financial risk to the equestrian industry of the importation of horses carrying equine infectious anaemia from Romania via other EU countries. [18806]

Mr Paice: No specific assessment of financial risk has been carried out.

However, DEFRA is very aware of the potential impact of equine infectious anaemia. Since the first outbreak in January, DEFRA has worked closely with the EU Commission and other member states to proactively reduce the risk to the UK. Exports of horses from Romania are now severely restricted, along with more UK import testing. DEFRA believes that the two cases in Northumberland and Devon in September 2010 relate to horses that left Romania before these measures were in place.

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had with her Romanian counterpart on equine infectious anaemia. [18807]

Mr Paice: The equine infectious anaemia situation across the European Union is of concern to the UK and all other member states. DEFRA has held regular discussions throughout 2010 with the EU Commission and representatives of other member states, including Romania. Since the first outbreak in January, DEFRA has worked to proactively reduce the risk to the UK. As a result, exports of horses from Romania are now severely restricted, along with more UK import testing.

Flood Control

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what geographical circumstances and characteristics of areas of flood risk she plans to take into account in determining financial allocations to local authorities for flood prevention and protection; and if she will make a statement. [18115]

Richard Benyon: The Department of Communities and Local Government's (CLG) consultation on "Local Government Finance—Formula Grant Distribution" closed on 6 October 2010. One of the consultation options was on the use of map-based data from the Environment Agency as the basis for measuring the number of properties at risk from flooding in each local authority area. Ministers will take into account all the representations that have been received when making decisions about changes to the formula grant distribution system ahead of the 2011-12 Local Government Finance Settlement. Similarly, DEFRA and CLG are also considering new burdens under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, including costs that may not correlate directly to risk.

Food: Religion

Jake Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will bring forward proposals to ensure that religiously prepared meat served in restaurants is identified as such. [18557]

Mr Paice: I appreciate that this is an issue which people feel strongly about and we will be working with interested groups to find a way to address their concerns. People should know what they are buying when they are eating out, and I will be discussing with the food industry whether point of sale information can play a greater role in giving consumers a choice.

Inshore Fishing: Nature Conservation

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what criteria are used to calculate the sums to be paid by local authorities to inshore fisheries conservation areas; and if she will make a statement. [17664]

Richard Benyon: The local authorities which comprise each Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (IFCA) will work with the other members of the IFCA to agree an appropriate budget for the organisation. The local authority members have the ability to veto any budget by majority vote.

Each local authority will contribute a proportion of the total budget, according to the percentages detailed in the order establishing each IFCA. The constituent local authorities of each IFCA were invited to agree a method for setting the contribution levels to be included in their IFCA's order. Where local authorities were unable to agree contribution levels locally, DEFRA applied a generic formula, which was agreed after public consultation.

This formula considered for each local authority, the population, length of seashore, land area covered and the number of Band D council tax properties (relative to the totals for each of these factors in the whole district). This provides a transparent mechanism for calculating how much each local authority will pay, and will be less subject to change over time therefore reducing the need to keep reappraising the proportion of levy that will be set out in the order establishing a particular district. It also means that per head of population in each local authority there is a much fairer contribution to the overall funding of the IFCA.

The ability for local authorities to agree alternative funding formulas for their IFCA remains.

DEFRA is assisting with the establishment of IFCAs through a Transitional Funding Grant Scheme this year and has secured, through the comprehensive spending review, some substantial additional funding from DEFRA to meet the new financial burden on constituent local authorities to help IFCAs deliver their new duties.

Rural Areas: Cycling

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will consider the merits of bringing forward proposals to increase the extent of rights of way in rural areas which cyclists may use; and if she will make a statement. [18117]

Richard Benyon: The Government are committed to improving access for cyclists.

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 requires local highway authorities to take a strategic view of their public rights of way networks by preparing rights of way improvement plans. These plans assess the current and future needs of all rights of way users and propose improvements to the network, particularly for users such as cyclists and horse riders, who may not be well served by the existing network.

Most authorities have finished their plans and we hope that they will now take these forward and implement them. DEFRA would also encourage cycling groups to co-ordinate their efforts, and work with local authorities and other user groups to improve the bridleway and cycle network in local areas in line with the plans.

Wood: Imports

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she plans to bring forward legislative proposals to regulate the possession of timber obtained from illegal logging. [19033]

Mr Paice: We will put in place the necessary legislation to implement the provisions of the EU Illegal Timber (Due Diligence) Regulation in the United Kingdom. This underlines our commitment to eliminating illegal timber from the UK market.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Referendums: Wales

Ian Lucas: To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission, what plans the Electoral Commission has to consult on the wording of any new referendum question proposed by the Secretary of State for Wales under the provisions of the Government of Wales Act 2006. [18694]

Mr Streeter: The Electoral Commission informs me that it was consulted by the Secretary of State for Wales on the wording of the proposed referendum question on 24 June 2010. It wrote to interested groups to invite their views on the question as part of its assessment process.

The Commission published its response to the consultation on 2 September 2010, setting out its views and recommendations on the intelligibility of the question. On 21 October 2010, the Secretary of State for Wales placed a copy of this report in the Library of the House of Commons, at the same time as laying draft legislation on the referendum. A copy of the report was also sent to the First Minister for laying before the National Assembly for Wales.

The question contained in the draft legislation is that suggested to the Secretary of State for Wales by the Electoral Commission so the Commission further informs me that it does not anticipate the need for any further consultation.

HEALTH

Arthritis: Health Services

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with the Royal College of General Practitioners on primary care training in rheumatoid arthritis for GPs. [17387]

Anne Milton: The Department has had no formal discussions with the Royal College of General Practitioners on training in rheumatoid arthritis for general practitioners. Whilst the Department acknowledges the importance of this area of expertise, the General Medical Council (GMC) is the competent authority for medical training in the United Kingdom. As such, the GMC is the approving body for the general practice curriculum—the content of which is specified by the Royal College of General Practitioners.

Breast Cancer: Research

Mrs Glindon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much *(a)* the Medical Research Council and *(b)* the National Institute for Health Research spent on breast cancer research in each year since 2007-08. [17990]

Mr Simon Burns: The Medical Research Council (MRC) is funded by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. The MRC reports funding for breast cancer research since 2007-08 of:

MRC spend

	£ million
2007-08	6.342
2008-09	5.862
2009-10	5.154

Comparable information for the Department's National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) is not held centrally.

The NIHR clinical research network is currently providing national health service research infrastructure support to 181 studies in breast cancer. Details can be found on the UK Clinical Research Network portfolio database at:

http://public.ukcrn.org.uk/search

The National Cancer Research Institute, a United Kingdom wider partnership between Government, charities and industry, makes cancer research information available online via the International Cancer Research Portfolio database at:

www.cancerportfolio.org

Dental Services

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to discuss developing new commissioning arrangements for NHS dentistry with representatives of the dental profession. [18223]

Mr Simon Burns: We have set up a national steering group to advise us on developing proposals for a new dental contract. Representatives from the British Dental Association are a key part of this group.

Dr Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what discussions he has had with local authorities on their role in ensuring that NHS dental services meet the needs of their users; [18228]

(2) what role health and wellbeing boards will have in ensuring that NHS dental services meet the needs of their users. [18230]

Mr Simon Burns: Oral health needs assessments and the epidemiological surveys on which they are based are public health functions, which are normally led by consultants in dental public health employed by primary care trusts (PCTs). The White Paper 'Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS' refers to the creation of a new public health service, to integrate and streamline existing health improvement. It also indicates that PCT responsibilities for local health improvement will transfer to local authorities, who will employ the Director of Public Health jointly appointed with the public health service. We will be publishing a White Paper on public health later this year, which will cover the transitional arrangements, required to implement these changes. Health and well-being boards within local authorities will be ideally placed to provide feedback on the quality and accessibility of national health service dental services in their areas.

Dental Services: Fees and Charges

Dr Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what role he expects Monitor to have in setting tariffs for dentistry. [18225]

Mr Simon Burns: Monitor will not regulate nor set prices for general dental services. Our current proposals, which are being further developed and will be subject to parliamentary approval, are that the NHS Commissioning Board will be responsible for setting tariff structures and Monitor, as the economic regulator will be responsible for setting price levels. This will include dental services provided in hospitals, which currently receive a mandatory tariff. In all aspects of price setting, they will be expected to work collaboratively for the benefit of patients and taxpayers.

Departmental Equality

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to publish equality impact assessments undertaken by his Department as part of the comprehensive spending review; and if he will make a statement. [18193]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department is taking equality into account in its work around the spending review. Equality impact assessments or other information on equalities will be published where relevant to individual policies as proposals are developed.

General Practitioners: Registration

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to introduce a professional registration scheme for practitioners of traditional forms of medicine that do not require full medical training. [18652]

Anne Milton: The Department consulted on whether, and if so how, to regulate acupuncture, herbal medicine and traditional Chinese medicine practitioners in 2009. The Government are currently considering their overall strategy on professional regulation, including whether to establish a registration scheme for practitioners of these traditional forms of medicine.

Health Services: Bexley

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to help reduce health inequalities in Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency. [17688]

Anne Milton: It is the responsibility of the local national health service to take practical steps to reduce health inequalities for the benefit of local residents.

The Government have made it clear that tackling health inequalities is a priority. The NHS has a critical role to play in reducing health inequalities that affect disadvantaged people, and the White Paper, 'Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS', published on 12 July 2010, will create an explicit NHS duty to tackling inequalities in access to NHS health care and the outcomes for that care.

Later this year we will publish a White Paper setting out further details of the new Public Health Service (PHS) and our programme for public health. Primary care trust responsibilities for local health improvement will transfer to local authorities, who will employ the Director of Public Health jointly appointed with the PHS.

Hospitals: Consultants

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS consultants have received bonuses of £35,000 or more in each of the last five years. [17893]

Mr Simon Burns: The cumulative number of consultants in receipt of an award with a cash value of £35,000 or more in the last five years is shown in the following table:

Award year	*Number of consultants*
2006	1,538
2007	1,531
2008	1,681
2009	3,494
2010	4,787

Notes:

1. The figures above show all consultants in receipt of an award with a full-time cash value over £35,000. Awards are paid pro rata.

2. The significant increase in 2009 is due to the cash value of bronze/level nine awards increasing above the £35,000 threshold. However, prior to the link to the national health service electronic staff record in January 2010, the Advisory Committee on Clinical Excellence Awards did not hold verified data on consultants holding level nine awards funded by their employers (local employer based awards). The actual total figure for 2009 will be higher than shown.

3. The new verified level nine data are included in 2010, which explains the significant increase for that year.

4. On 20 August 2010 the Secretary of State for Health announced a United Kingdom wide review of compensation levels, incentives and the Clinical Excellence and Distinction Award Schemes for NHS consultants. The review is being led by the Review Body on Doctors' and Dentists' Remuneration (DDRB). The DDRB has been asked to submit recommendations to UK Ministers by July 2011.

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been paid to NHS consultants in bonuses in each of the last five years. [17974]

Mr Simon Burns: The total national health service spend in England for national clinical excellence and distinction awards for the last financial years for which figures are available is shown in the following table.

Financial year	*Spend (£ million)*
2006-07	178
2007-08	190
2008-09	180
2009-10	202
2010-11	n/a

Notes:

1. The information above does not include information on local clinical excellence awards (employer based awards) which are paid by trusts. This information is not held centrally.

2. The information above does not include national clinical excellence awards that are paid from central funds to consultants holding an NHS contract and employed in the Department or arm's length bodies.

3. The reduction in expenditure in 2008-09 reflected a scrutiny exercise which identified a number of consultants who had retired without notifying the Advisory Committee on Clinical Excellence Awards (any excess payments in 2007-08 were to trusts only and those monies were available for patient care. No consultants received payment to which they were not entitled).

4. On 20 August 2010 the Secretary of State for Health announced a United Kingdom wide review of compensation levels, incentives and the Clinical Excellence and Distinction Award Schemes for NHS consultants. The review is being led by the Review Body on Doctors' and Dentists' Remuneration (DDRB). The DDRB has been asked to submit recommendations to UK Ministers by July 2011.

NHS: Complaints

Fiona Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to review the adequacy of the complaints procedures in the NHS. [18698]

Mr Simon Burns: There are currently no plans to review the NHS complaints arrangements.

NHS: Freedom of Information

Dr Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which types of clinical service providers funded from the public purse are not subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [17975]

Mr Simon Burns: Sections 3 to 7 and schedule 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 set out the public authorities that are subject to its provisions.

Examples of clinical service providers that receive funds from the public purse that are not subject to the provisions of the Act would include private companies, social enterprises and charities contracted by national health service organisations to provide clinical services for NHS patients.

Non-departmental Public Bodies

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the statement of 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 505-06, on public bodies reform, how many staff are employed by the General Social Care Council; how many such staff will be transferred to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* new bodies; how many such staff will be made redundant; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of redundancy payments for these staff. [18160]

Paul Burstow: The reforms to the General Social Care Council (GSCC) were announced in the report of the arm's length bodies review, published in July 2010. The GSCC's annual report and accounts for 2009-10 state they employ 239 staff. We do not expect any staff to transfer to the Department of Health.

Cabinet Office guidance confirms that Transfer of Undertakings Protection of Employment (TUPE)-like provisions will apply where GSCC staff are engaged in functions which are transferring to the Health Professions Council (HPC). Discussions are ongoing between GSCC and HPC about how the TUPE-like principles will be applied to individuals. Until these details are determined, we are unable to estimate what the cost of any redundancies will be, to the public purse.

Further information will be published in the impact assessment that will accompany the publication of the Health Bill.

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the statement of 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 505-06, on public bodies reform, how many staff are employed by the National Information Governance Board for Health and Social Care; how many such staff will be transferred to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* new bodies; how many such staff will be made redundant; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of redundancy payments for these staff. [18170]

Mr Simon Burns: The National Information Governance Board for Health and Social Care (NIGB) does not employ staff, and there will therefore be no redundancies or associated redundancy costs. Secretariat and other staff support for the board is currently provided by the Department.

It is anticipated that the statutory functions of the NIGB will transfer to the Care Quality Commission, and that other advice the board currently provides will in future come from within the Department, or other bodies. Staff support will continue to be provided under the new arrangements.

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the statement of 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 505-06, on public bodies reform, how many staff are employed by the National Joint Registry Steering Committee; how many such staff will be transferred to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* new bodies; how many such staff will be made redundant; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of redundancy payments for these staff. [18171]

Mr Simon Burns: The National Joint Registry Steering Committee does not employ staff, therefore there will be no redundancies or associated redundancy costs. The Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership provides the secretariat for the committee and will continue to provide that function for the reconstituted committee of experts.

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the statement of 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 505-06, on public bodies reform, what the functions of the Advisory Committee on Borderline Substances are; which of these functions are to be retained; and which bodies he proposes to have responsibility for fulfilling these functions. [18305]

Mr Simon Burns: The Advisory Committee on Borderline Substances (ACBS) advises prescribers on the circumstances in which it would be reasonable to prescribe particular non-medicinal products on the national health service. Its advice mainly relates to foods such as enteral feeds and foods which are specially formulated to be suitable for use by people with given medical conditions, but also covers some non-food products such as sun blocks. ACBS advice takes the form of its "recommended list" which is published as Part XV of the Drug Tariff.

The ACBS also advises Ministers on the addition of particular non-medicinal products to Schedule 2 to the National Health Service (General Medical Services Contracts) (Prescription of Drugs etc) Regulations 2004, the effect of which is to prohibit their prescribing by general practitioners on the NHS.

Following its reconstitution into a Departmental Committee of Experts, the ACBS will have continuing responsibility for this remit.

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the statement of 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 505-06, on public bodies reform, how many staff are employed by the Advisory Committee on Borderline Substances; how many such staff will be transferred to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* new bodies; how many such staff will be made redundant; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of redundancy payments for these staff. [18145]

Mr Simon Burns: The Advisory Committee on Borderline Substances does not employ staff, so there will be no redundancies or associated redundancy costs. The secretariat for the committee is provided by the Department. A secretariat function will continue to be provided for the reconstituted committee of experts.

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the statement of 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 505-06, on public bodies reform, (1) how many staff are employed by the Advisory Board on the Regulation of Homeopathic Products; how many such staff will be transferred to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* new bodies; how many such staff will be made redundant; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of redundancy payments for these staff; [18146]

(2) how many staff are employed by the Committee on the Safety of Devices; how many such staff will be transferred to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* new bodies; how many such staff will be made redundant; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of redundancy payments for these staff; [18156]

(3) how many staff are employed by the Herbal Medicines Advisory Committee; how many such staff will be transferred to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* new bodies; how many such staff will be made redundant; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of redundancy payments for these staff; [18163]

(4) how many staff are employed by the Independent Review Panel for the Classification of Borderline Products; how many such staff will be transferred to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* new bodies; how many such staff will be made redundant; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of redundancy payments for these staff; [18167]

(5) how many staff are employed by the Independent Review Panel on the Advertising of Medicines; how many such staff will be transferred to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* new bodies; how many such staff will be made redundant; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of redundancy payments for these staff. [18168]

Mr Simon Burns: There are no permanent staff associated with any of these bodies, and therefore there will be no transfers of staff to the Department necessary or costs to the public purse in relation to redundancy payments.

These bodies are all committees of scientific experts whose members attend meetings as and when required to carry out the specific function of that committee. Current terms of reference for each of these can be found on the website Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency's (MHRA) website at:

www.mhra.gov.uk

The secretariat for these committees is supplied by the MHRA from its own staff.

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the statement of 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 505-06, on public bodies reform, what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of organisational changes required to implement the proposals to reform his Department's non-departmental public bodies; and whether the cost will be allocated to his Department's budget. [18199]

Mr Simon Burns: The Public Bodies Review has laid out proposals for a number of changes to public bodies, including the Human Fertility and Embryology Authority, and the Human Tissue Authority, which are the responsibility of the Department of Health. The Department is not yet able to produce robust costings of the changes arising from this re-organisation. This is because the precise costs of the transition will not be known until the operational detail of the changes is known.

The Government will shortly publish an Impact Assessment assessing the impact of the changes proposed in the Public Bodies (Reform) Bill.

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the statement of 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 505-06, on public bodies reform, (1) what the functions of the Advisory Board on the Registration of Homeopathic Products are; which of these functions are to be retained; and which bodies he proposes to have responsibility for fulfilling these functions; [18292]

(2) what the functions of the Herbal Medicines Advisory Committee are; which of these functions are to be retained; and which bodies he proposes to have responsibility for fulfilling these functions; [18300]

(3) what the functions of the Independent Review Panel for the Classification of Borderline Products are; which of these functions are to be retained; and which bodies he proposes to have responsibility for fulfilling these functions; [18304]

(4) what the functions of the Independent Review Panel on the Advertising of Medicines are; which of these functions are to be retained; and which bodies he proposes to have responsibility for fulfilling these functions; [18306]

(5) what the functions of the Committee on the Safety of Devices are; which of these functions are to be retained; and which bodies he proposes to have responsibility for fulfilling these functions. [18312]

Mr Simon Burns: The Advisory Board on the Registration of Homeopathic Products was established in 1994 pursuant to the powers contained in section 4 of the Medicines Act 1968. Its terms of reference are:

> to give advice on safety and quality in relation to any homeopathic medicinal product for human use, in respect of which a certificate of registration has been granted or applied for; and
>
> to give advice on safety, quality and efficacy in relation to any homeopathic medicinal product for human use:
>
> (i) for which a marketing authorisation has been granted or has been applied for, or
>
> (ii) for which a licence of right has been granted.

This body will become a committee of scientific experts and will continue to undertake this role as an advisory committee to the Medicines and Healthcare Products regulatory Agency (MHRA). It has no permanent members of staff and the secretariat services are provided by the MHRA.

The Herbal Medicines Advisory Committee was established under the powers contained in section 4 of the Medicines Act 1968 and the Committee was formally created on 30 October 2005. The functions of the Committee are set out in the Herbal Medicines Advisory Committee Order 2005. The Herbal Medicines Advisory Committee advises on the safety, quality and efficacy, in relation to human use, of:

> herbal medicinal products eligible for registration under the simplified traditional use Registration procedure established under European Directive 2004/24/EC; and
>
> unlicensed herbal medicinal products (unless it is subject to an application for a marketing authorisation, product licence or a homoeopathic certificate of registration).

The Committee may also advise on the safety, quality and efficacy, in relation to human use, of herbal medicinal products which have a marketing authorisation, product licence or certificate of registration, or which are the subject of an application for such authorisation, licence or certificate, if Health Ministers or the licensing authority request such advice, or provide the Committee with information relating to that product.

This body will become a committee of scientific experts and will continue to undertake this role as an advisory committee to the MHRA. It has no permanent members of staff and the secretariat services are provided by the MHRA.

The role of the Independent Review Panel for the Classification of Borderline Products is:

> to consider written and oral representations from companies against a provisional determination by the MHRA, on behalf of the Licensing Authority, that a product is a medicinal product; and
>
> to advise the Licensing Authority whether or not the MHRA's provisional determination should be confirmed.

This body will become a committee of scientific experts and will continue to undertake this role as an advisory committee to the MHRA. A single committee has been appointed to undertake this role and the role of the Independent review Panel for Advertising of Medicines. It has no permanent members of staff and the secretariat services are provided by the MHRA.

The Independent Review Panel for Advertising of Medicines (IRPA) was established in 1999 as a result of a consultation in 1997 on the proposed amendments to the Advertising and Monitoring of Advertising Regulations 1994. The amendments were designed to increase the effectiveness of these regulations, a move which some saw as increasing the MHRA's regulatory powers. In response to these concerns the MHRA introduced a procedure allowing companies to make representations to an Independent Review Panel.

Where a company has requested a review, the findings of the Panel have to be taken into consideration before a final decision on a company promotion for a product can be made.

This body will become a committee of scientific experts and will continue to undertake this role as an advisory committee to the MHRA. A single committee has been appointed to undertake this role and the role of the Independent Review Panel for the Classification of Borderline Products. It has no permanent members of staff and the secretariat services are provided by the MHRA.

The functions of the Committee on the Safety of Devices are to:

take a strategic view of initiatives to make medical devices and their use safer and more effective:

offer advice on the development of device related policies:

advise on the format and targeting of the MHRA's communications with the Health Service; and

be part of the MHRA Quality Assurance System.

This body is a committee of scientific experts and will continue to undertake this role as an advisory committee to the MHRA. It has no permanent members of staff and the secretariat services are provided by the MHRA.

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the statement of 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 505-06, on public bodies reform, what the functions of the General Social Care Council are; which of these functions are to be retained; and which bodies he proposes to have responsibility for fulfilling these functions. [18295]

Paul Burstow: The statutory functions of the General Social Care Council (GSCC) are those set out in the Care Standards Act 2000 and other enactments. The 2000 Act confers various functions on the GSCC, including requiring it to promote high standards of conduct and practice among social care workers in England; and high standards in their training. The GSCC must maintain and, from time to time, publish a register of social workers and visiting social workers from relevant European states. The GSCC also has the function to approve courses for persons who are or wish to become approved mental health professionals in England in accordance with rules made by it.

Subject to parliamentary approval, the GSCC's regulatory functions will be transferred to the Health Professions Council.

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the statement of 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 505-06, on public bodies reform, what the functions of the National Information Governance Board for Health and Social Care are; which of these functions are to be retained; and which bodies he proposes to have responsibility for fulfilling these functions. [18317]

Mr Simon Burns: The National Information Governance Board for Health and Social Care (NIGB) provides leadership and promotes consistent standards for information governance across health and social care. It considers ethical issues, the interpretation and application of the relevant law and policies, and provides advice on information governance matters at a national level.

It is anticipated that the statutory functions of the NIGB will transfer to the Care Quality Commission, and that other advice the Board currently provides will in future come from within the Department, or other bodies.

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the statement of 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 505-06, on public bodies reform, what the functions of the National Joint Registry Steering Committee are; which of these functions are to be retained; and which bodies he proposes to have responsibility for fulfilling these functions. [18318]

Mr Simon Burns: The National Joint Registry Steering Committee (NJRSC) is responsible for:

setting the National Joint Registry's (NJR) work programme and monitoring its progress.

providing advice to Ministers, orthopaedic units, hospitals and implant suppliers, where the information shows concerns about the performance of certain prostheses;

setting the cost of the levy, based on the contractual costs of running the Registry and the work programme agreed;

providing an annual report to Ministers on the performance of the NJR and, following ministerial agreement, to make publicly available;

establishing and monitoring codes of conduct for the contractor dealing with orthopaedic units within national health service trusts and independent health care providers, as well as the orthopaedic implant industry; and

facilitating, where appropriate, the use of the NJR data for research purposes.

The NJRSC's remit will remain unchanged following its reconstitution into a Departmental Committee of Experts. Once the change is enacted, the NJRSC will continue to be responsible for its remit but as a Departmental Committee of Experts.

Organs Transportation: Aviation

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent representations he has received on the use of aviation services for the transport of organs for donation; and if he will make a statement; [18349]

(2) which organisations provided aviation services for the purpose of transporting organs for transplant in the NHS in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10; [18350]

(3)how much the NHS spent on aviation services for the purpose of transporting organs for transplant in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [18351]

Anne Milton: No representations on the use of aviation services for the transport of organs for donation have been received recently by the Secretary of State.

In 2008-09 and 2009-10 the organisations that have provided aviation services for the purpose of transporting organs for transplant in the national health service are:

Air Charter Scotland

Air Partner

FlyMeNow

IAS Medical

Sovereign.

When an organ becomes available for transplant it is the responsibility of the recipient hospital to arrange for the organ to be transported to them. They take the decision on whether they want to arrange the transport themselves (many hospitals already have their own transport contracts in place) or whether they would like NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) to do it. If NHSBT is asked to organise the transport then the details will be passed to the West Midlands Ambulance Service for them to arrange collection and delivery of the organ between the relevant hospitals.

All payments for these services are made directly by recipient hospitals. In relation to how much the NHS spent on aviation services for the purpose of transporting organs for transplant, this information is not held centrally as payments are made directly by recipient hospitals to the aviation company providing the service.

Patient Choice Schemes

Fiona Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to review the effectiveness of the operation of the Choose and Book system. [18697]

Mr Simon Burns: There are no plans to review the effectiveness of the Choose and Book system (beyond consideration as part of the re-procurement process). The Department is consulting on how to implement commitments set out in the White Paper to give patients greater choice and control. Further consideration of Choose and Book could be given in light of consultation responses.

Respiratory Diseases

Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department holds on the stage at which chronic obstructive pulmonary disease is diagnosed in the UK; and what information it holds for benchmarking purposes on the stage of diagnosis in other EU member states. [18134]

Mr Simon Burns: The information the Department holds on the stage at which chronic obstructive pulmonary disease is diagnosed was published as part of the Department's consultation on a strategy for services for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in England and is included in the consultation impact assessment. The consultation documents have been placed in the Library and can be found on the Department's website at:

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+/www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_112977

The Department does not hold information for benchmarking purposes on the stage of diagnosis in other European Union member states.

Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the number of *(a)* emergency hospital admissions and *(b)* inpatient bed days that could be saved by improving the rate of early diagnosis for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. [18136]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department's strategy for services for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in England, which was published for consultation earlier this year, has been designed to reduce the costs and volumes of both admissions and bed days while improving patient outcomes, and has a major focus on prevention and identification. The consultation included publication of an impact assessment which included estimates of the impact of the strategy as a whole on the numbers and costs of emergency hospital admissions. No explicit estimates were made relating to in-patient bed days, or to the specific impact of improving the rate of early diagnosis of the disease. The consultation documents have already been placed in the Library, and can be found on the Department's website at:

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+/www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_112977

Social Services: Learning Disability

Jim Dowd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 11 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 89W, on social services: learning disability, what timetable he has set for the implementation of the recommendations of the Raising Our Sights report. [18204]

Paul Burstow: A timetable has not yet been decided for implementation of the recommendations made in this report but we envisage that we should be in a position to give a formal departmental response by the end of the year.

Strokes

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of patients who suffered a transient ischaemic attack and were at high risk of stroke but were not admitted to a specialist stroke unit in the latest period for which figures are available. [18138]

Mr Simon Burns: Evidence suggests that people at high risk of stroke after transient ischaemic attack can benefit from an 80% reduction in the likelihood of subsequent stroke if they are managed in a rapid-access high quality outpatient service, accessible seven days a week. Such a service needs to include access to carotid artery and brain imaging results within 24 hours of referral. The national stroke strategy suggests that an urgent assessment service provided by secondary care that allows same-day access for high-risk cases may best be achieved by allowing open-access for general practitioners, emergency department staff, paramedics and other providers. The strategy also recognises that those at highest risk may justify immediate admission.

The Stroke Tier 1 Vital Sign collects information on the numbers of people at high risk of stroke who are assessed and treated within 24 hours of presenting to a health care professional with a potential transient ischaemic attack. The latest data, quarter one (April to June) of 2010-11, show that 56.2% of such patients were assessed and treated within 24 hours; this information has been placed in the Library and is available on the Department's website at:

> www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Statistics/Performancedataandstatistics/Vitalsignsmonitoring/DH_112528

The expected position by March 2011, is that 60% should meet this standard.

The 2010 Stroke Sentinel Audit notes that fewer people with a transient ischaemic attack were in hospital in 2009-10 than in the previous audit. It also reports that a third of centres admit high-risk transient ischaemic attack patients but that, on the day of the audit, only 37% of transient ischaemic attack patients were being managed on a specialist stroke bed.

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to increase access to psychological support in stroke units. [18203]

Mr Simon Burns: It is for primary care trusts locally to specify in their contracts the services to be provided for those in their local populations who experience a stroke.

The national stroke strategy sets out clear advice on the components of high quality stroke services and this includes the importance of psychological support across the care pathway. One of the quality statements in the recently, published National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence Stroke Quality Standard is that

> "all patients after stroke are screened within 6 weeks of diagnosis using a validated tool, to identify mood disturbance and cognitive impairment".

The Stroke Improvement Programme (SIP) supports the national health service in the implementation of the stroke strategy. In the current year it is supporting the NHS in an Accelerating Stroke Improvement programme, which includes a focus on stroke survivors who have received psychological support for mood, behaviour or cognitive disturbance six months after stroke. SIP is developing:

> a consensus statement about what psychological services for stroke should be, including a pathway for the provision of a service and information about screening tools;
>
> a summary of the research evidence;
>
> work force competencies in line with the Stroke Specific Education Framework, for those screening, referring or managing individuals with psychological support needs; and
>
> a broad health economic assessment of the impact of psychological services for stroke.

Sunbeds (Regulation) Act 2010

Mrs Siân C. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps he plans to take to inform *(a)* the public, *(b)* businesses and *(c)* local authorities of the provisions of the Sunbeds (Regulation) Act 2010; [16328]

(2) what measures are in force to protect under 18-year-olds from the adverse health effects of sunbeds; [16329]

(3) when the provisions in the Sunbeds (Regulation) Act 2010 on *(a)* prevention of unstaffed sunbed salons and *(b)* provision of health information in sunbed salons will be implemented; [16330]

(4) what support and guidance will be given to local authorities to implement the provisions of the Sunbeds (Regulation) Act 2010. [16381]

Anne Milton: The Sunbeds (Regulation) Act 2010 comes into force on 8 April 2011.The purpose of the Act is to prevent people under the age of 18 from using sunbeds on commercial premises, by making it an offence for sunbed operators to allow people under the age of 18 access to sunbeds on their premises.

The Department is working on guidance for local authorities and sunbed businesses to assist with the implementation and enforcement of the Act.

The Act contains powers to make further regulations in relation to sunbed use. These include the power to ensure all sunbed use is supervised and the power to ensure that sunbed businesses provide prescribed health information to sunbed users. We are currently considering the regulation making powers contained in the Act. At this time, no decisions have been taken on these powers.

SunSmart, the national skin cancer prevention and sun protection campaign, also provides information through its website and resources on the risks to health of sunbeds. In May 2009, the Heath and Safety Executive (HSE) published revised guidance on their website including information for sunbed businesses to provide to their customers on the risks to health of sunbed use. Both SunSmart and the HSE guidance are aimed at all age groups including those under 18 years.

Tobacco: Advertising

Mr Ward: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to ensure that young people are not exposed to tobacco advertising and sponsorship at music festivals. [18850]

Anne Milton: The Tobacco Advertising and Promotion Act 2002 (TAPA) controls the advertising and promotion of tobacco products. Tobacco products are defined in the Act as products "consisting wholly or partly of tobacco and intended to be smoked, sniffed, sucked or chewed".

Under the provisions in TAPA, tobacco products should not be advertised, apart from an A5-sized advertisement only at points of sale. Likewise, sponsorship linked to tobacco products is unlawful under TAPA. The provisions of TAPA cover music festivals.

Potential breaches of TAPA should be reported to local trading standards departments, as local authorities have enforcement responsibilities in this area.

Tobacco: Retail Trade

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to bring forward legislative proposals to amend the statutory regime governing the display of tobacco products in shops; when he plans to do so; and what assessment he has made of the effects of the current legislation on small business owners. [18533]

Anne Milton: The Government, in discussions across Whitehall, are developing options around the display of tobacco in shops that seek to ensure an appropriate balance between public health priorities and burdens on business.

An impact assessment showing the costs to retailers of the existing regulations, the Tobacco Advertising and Promotion (Display)(England) Regulations 2010, was published as part of the Explanatory Memorandum to the regulations. This followed public consultation on earlier drafts of the impact assessment as part of the 2008 'Consultation on the future of tobacco control' and in the 2009 'Consultation on proposed tobacco control regulations for England (under the Health bill 2009)'.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum: Deportation

Paul Uppal: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many failed asylum seekers were evicted from domestic properties in Wolverhampton South West constituency before deportation from the UK in the last 12 months. [17993]

Damian Green: The Home Office does not keep records of evictions from domestic properties. However, the UK Border Agency (UKBA) has contracts with various housing providers and will notify them when support is terminated for failed asylum seekers.

Between 1 October 2009 and 30 September 2010, 872 main applicants supported by the UKBA with addresses within the area of Wolverhampton South West had their support stopped following a final negative decision on their claim for asylum.

These applicants were located in accommodation provided by both local authority and private providers under contract to the UK Border Agency. 32 of these applicants have since been removed, with the remaining cases being actively pursued to removal.

All figures quoted are internal management information only and are subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols.

Borders: Contracts

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the performance of each of her Department's contractors retained under the e-Borders programme; and if she will make a statement. [18249]

Damian Green *[holding answer 19 October 2010]:* There has been no recent assessment. The only company currently delivering e-Borders services to the Home Department is Raytheon Systems Limited under the exit management provisions of the e-Borders agreement that survive termination. Raytheon are continuing to deliver services, notwithstanding being terminated for material breach of contract, until such time as the Home Department can secure provision of replacement services by means of alternative contractors.

Crimes of Violence

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to implement the Government's obligations under the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities set out in *(a)* Article 15 on freedom from torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, *(b)* Article 16 on freedom from exploitation, violence and abuse, *(c)* Article 18 on liberty of movement and nationality and *(d)* Article 22 on respect for privacy. [17886]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office takes the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) very seriously, recognising the commitment that Government have made to equality of rights for disabled people. The Department is currently further considering its responsibilities against the expectations of the convention (specific examples are provided as follows), and the UK report to the UN next year will describe how implementation is being achieved.

The coalition programme for Government included a specific commitment to

> "promote better recording of hate crimes against disabled, homosexual and transgender people, which are frequently not centrally recorded".

In support of this commitment, and Article 16 of the UNCRPD, Home Office Ministers recently supported a proposal to extend the Annual Data Requirement (ADR)—a list of all requests made to all 43 police forces in England and Wales under the Home Secretary's statutory powers—to cover all five strands of 'monitored' hate crime including disability. It is intended these data will, subject to the technical consultation and checks on data quality, be collected from April 2011 and should be published in late 2012.

The Department is working to ensure that it enables persons with disabilities to enjoy their rights to liberty of movement, to freedom to choose their residence and to a nationality, on an equal basis with others, as set out in Article 18 of the UNCRPD, by means of its duties as specified in domestic legislation. A reservation for immigration functions was lodged when the UK ratified the convention to ensure that the convention did not inadvertently create new rights in a way that could undermine immigration control or our ability to protect public health. There is an ongoing government review to assess the continued need for this reservation.

Departmental Contracts

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what contracts her Department has awarded to voluntary sector organisations in the last two years; and what the monetary value was of each such contract. [17249]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 13 October 2010]:* The Home Department has not awarded any contract to voluntary sector organisations within the last two years.

Departmental Equality

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to publish equality impact assessments undertaken by her Department as part of the comprehensive spending review; and if she will make a statement. [18280]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 20 October 2010]*: The Home Office has put in place measures to ensure we assess the impact of our distribution of the departmental allocation by the Treasury, for each of our policy responsibilities, through individual Equality Impact Assessment exercises. We will therefore be publishing information in stages over a period of some time, as decisions are developed and we have greater clarity on spending review implementation.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff her Department employs to consider *(a)* departmental and *(b)* national strategy; what output such staff are required to produce; and if she will make a statement. [15596]

Nick Herbert: There are central policy/strategy units in each of the four groups in the Home Office, and one with a remit across the whole Home Office. These units contribute to strategic policy and operational work across the Department, but such work is not restricted to these teams. As of the beginning of October 2010 the Crime and Policing strategy team has 10 people, the Office of Security and Counter Terrorism team has nine people, the UK Border Agency team has seven people, the Identity and Passport team has 3.5 people, and the central team has nine people. Full organograms for the Department were published on 15 October.

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* officials of her Department and *(b)* external advisers are working on her Department's review of terrorism legislation. [16979]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 13 September 2010]*: As my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary announced to Parliament on 13 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 797-809, the review of counter-terrorism and security powers is being led by civil servants from the Office for Security and Counter-Terrorism in my Department. It is being undertaken with the full involvement of the police, security and intelligence agencies, and other Government Departments including those in Scotland and Northern Ireland. There are six to seven full-time equivalent civil servants, the majority of whose time is being taken up working on the review. There are, of course, other civil servants and public servants (including in the police, security and intelligence agencies) who are contributing to the review but have not been included in the core group of civil servants working on the review.

Lord MacDonald of River Glaven is providing independent oversight.

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* officials of her Department and *(b)* external advisers are working on her Department's review of the US-UK Extradition Treaty. [17058]

Nick Herbert: Preparations for the review of the UK's extradition arrangements form part of the workload of two Home Office policy officials and one Home Office lawyer. The review will be conducted by a small panel of independent experts.

An announcement on who will undertake the review was made on 14 October 2011. The review will be chaired by Sir Scott Baker. He will be supported by two lawyers with expertise in extradition matters: David Perry QC and Anand Doobay.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many senior civil service staff her Department recruited in each of the last three years; at what cost to the public purse that recruitment was undertaken in each such year; and if she will make a statement. [17369]

Nick Herbert: From 1 April 2008 to October 2010, the Home Office and its agencies recruited 32 senior civil servants from outside the civil service. Of these 32 appointments, 21 were from the private sector, and 11 were from the wider public sector. The remainder of the information is not readily available or held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Devon and Cornwall Constabulary

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the potential effects on police *(a)* staffing levels and *(b)* detection rates in Devon and Cornwall of expenditure reductions of (i) 10, (ii) 20 and (iii) 30 per cent. [18831]

Nick Herbert: My right hon. Friend, the Home Secretary, will place the Government's proposed allocations for individual forces, including Devon and Cornwall Constabulary, before Parliament in early December.

My right hon. Friend has been clear that the police service must play its part in reducing the deficit. Decisions about the number of police officers, police community support officers and other police staff engaged by Devon and Cornwall Constabulary and how they are deployed within the force are a matter for the chief constable and the police authority.

DNA: Databases

Mark Reckless: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many DNA profiles of individuals not convicted of any crime have been added to the national DNA database since 6 May 2010. [15536]

Nick Herbert: The National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) obtains this information periodically, usually once per year, and to obtain it more frequently would incur disproportionate cost. The most recent figures available for England and Wales were obtained on 31 March 2010 and, therefore, the figures requested from 6 May 2010 to date are not available.

Dr Ejup Ganic

Mr Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what reports she received on the steps taken by Interpol between the issue of a diffusion notice relating to Dr Ejup Ganic in May 2009 and the arrest of Dr Ganic on 1 March 2010; and whether there is an outstanding red notice against Dr Ejup Ganic further to his discharge from proceedings in the UK. [16006]

Nick Herbert: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary received no reports concerning the steps taken by Interpol between the issuing of a red notice and Dr Ganic's provisional arrest, pending receipt of an extradition request, on 1 March 2010.

Interpol London can neither confirm nor deny whether the diffusion notice in respect of Dr Ganic is still extant.

Police: Finance

Alun Michael: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate she has made of the average annual cost to a police authority of *(a)* recruiting a special constable, *(b)* reimbursing travel and expenses incurred by a special constable and *(c)* training a special constable. [17956]

Nick Herbert: The information requested is not held centrally.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much each police force spent on *(a)* leisure and sporting activities and *(b)* promotional materials in each of the last three years. [18813]

Nick Herbert: The information requested is not held centrally.

Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* external advisers are working on her Department's consultation on the use by local authorities of powers under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000. [16673]

Nick Herbert: The consultation on the use by local authorities of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 is part of a wider review. The equivalent of one full-time civil servant in the Home Office is working on the local authorities aspect, liaising closely with the Communities and Local Government Department and the Ministry of Justice as appropriate. No external adviser is involved in the work.

Surveillance

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will bring forward legislative proposals to make the unlawful use of *(a)* intrusive surveillance, *(b)* directed surveillance and *(c)* covert human intelligence sources a criminal offence. [18024]

Nick Herbert: We have no plans to do so. Covert surveillance and the use of covert human intelligence sources are authorised under Part II of Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 ('RIPA'). Section 27 of RIPA makes it clear that activity regulated under Part II is lawful providing it is properly authorised and that the activity is conducted in accordance with the authorisation. Independent inspection and appeals mechanisms provide statutory oversight for these procedures.

The Investigatory Powers Tribunal, which investigates complaints about RIPA authorisations and conduct and has a wide range of remedies at its disposal. It may quash any warrant or authorisation, order the destruction of relevant material, award compensation or make any other order as it sees fit.

Terrorism: Control Orders

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many persons imprisoned for terrorist offences have escaped from *(a)* control orders and *(b)* supervised release in each of the last five years. [15594]

Nick Herbert: In the last five years there have been no persons imprisoned for terrorist offences who have been unlawfully at large while subject to post-release supervision.

Seven individuals have absconded from control orders—two in 2006 and five in 2007. Given the national security sensitivities of these cases and the obligation to avoid publishing any information that could lead to the identification of an individual subject to an anonymity order, the information which can be provided about the individuals concerned has been given in a number of written ministerial statements.

I would refer my hon. Friend to written ministerial statements in relation to control orders published on 11 December 2006, 16 January 2007, 22 March 2007, 24 May 2007, 21 June 2007 (two statements), 17 September 2007 and 13 March 2008.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Emissions

Penny Mordaunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of allocating local carbon budgets; and if he will make a statement. [18372]

Gregory Barker: Local authorities need to show strong leadership and accountability in cutting emissions from their own estates and operations and those arising within their areas, and have an important role in contributing to the UK's statutory carbon reduction targets.

We are currently exploring options for local carbon reduction and have an ongoing dialogue at all levels with the local authorities, the Local Government Group, Friends of the Earth and other interested parties to determine how to optimise the local authority contribution. We expect and will encourage local authorities to develop stretching ambitions on carbon emissions.

Circulator Pumps: Energy

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department plans to take steps to inform the public of the energy reductions and carbon savings consequent on the installation of energy efficiency circulators. [16763]

Gregory Barker: Information on the benefits of more energy efficient circulators is available to the public through the series of Briefing Notes, BNM C01 to 05, that can be downloaded from Market Transformation Programme's website. A Guidance Note on Commission Regulation 641/2009, which specifies minimum performance criteria for circulators, is also available from the Departmental for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. Additionally, there is a significant amount of information in the public domain on the benefits of energy efficient circulators that supports the industry's A to G energy labelling scheme. We have no plans to supplement this information, particularly as Commission Regulation 641 will be in force by 2013.

Departmental Sick Leave

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many days his Department has lost to staff sickness in each year since his Department's inception; and what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of sickness absence in each such year. [18795]

Gregory Barker: DECC was created in October 2008. The Department encourages a culture where good attendance is expected and valued. However, it recognises that from time to time absences for medical reasons may be unavoidable. The Department aims to treat its staff who are ill with sympathy and fairness and where possible provide them with support which will enable them to recover their health and return to work.

In the period October 2008-March 2009 the Department lost 1,325 days to sickness at an estimated cost of £295,475.

In 2009-10 the Department lost 3,667 days to sickness at an estimated cost of £751,735.

Energy Bills

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will introduce measures to help fuel-poor and vulnerable energy consumers in meeting energy bills to come into effect when the Warm Front scheme ends. [18562]

Gregory Barker: DECC will fund a smaller, targeted Warm Front programme for the next two years with a budget of £110 million in 2011-12 and £100 million in 2012-13. From 2013, support for heating and insulation for the most vulnerable consumers will be delivered through the Green Deal for energy efficiency and a new obligation on energy companies.

In addition, from April 2011, energy suppliers will provide greater help with the financial costs of energy bills to more of the most vulnerable fuel-poor households, through Social Price Support—with total support of £250 million in 2011-12 rising to £310 million in 2014-15.

Energy Policy

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 18 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 42-46WS, on energy policy, what estimate he has made of the maximum compensation payable to the Government for taking on financial risks or liabilities; and what mechanism he proposes to use to *(a)* define and *(b)* measure benefits arising from taking on such risks or liabilities. [18654]

Charles Hendry: As the 18 October 2010 statement on "no subsidy for new nuclear power" made clear, we are not ruling out action by the Government to take on financial risks or liabilities for which they are appropriately compensated or for which there are corresponding benefits. The Government would consider any potential measures in this area on a case-by-case basis, in line with the policy as set out in the statement.

Energy: Meters

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent progress his Department has made on plans for a national roll-out of domestic smart meters; and if he will make a statement. [18232]

Charles Hendry: The Department and Ofgem are currently consulting on a range of smart metering proposals. These are contained in the Smart Metering Implementation Programme Prospectus and a number of supporting documents published on 27 July 2010, and available at

www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations

In order to bring forward the start of roll-out and help deliver early benefits, the prospectus proposes a staged approach to implementation under which suppliers will start to install smart meters that meet the minimum requirements defined in common technical specifications ahead of a central data and communications entity being established. The prospectus also makes clear that my Department and Ofgem will look to the industry to examine the opportunities for realising more ambitious but achievable targets for the rate at which suppliers must install smart metering.

In order that further progress can be made as quickly as possible, the prospectus asked for consultation responses in two tranches, the first (including responses to questions on the staged approach to implementation) by 28 September and the second by 28 October.

Nuclear Power

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much support *(a)* his Department and its predecessor and *(b)* non-departmental public bodies for which his Department is responsible have provided to the nuclear industry in the form of (i) full-time equivalent staff, (ii) facilities and (iii) research and development expenditures in each of the last 10 financial years; and if he will indicate in each such case which costs (A) arise from the UK's nuclear legacy and (B) are associated with possible new nuclear power stations. [17654]

Charles Hendry: The Department of Energy and Climate Change does not hold the information requested centrally and providing a breakdown of the support referred to would result in a disproportionate cost.

It is the Government's policy that there will be no public subsidy for nuclear new build. The Secretary of State made a statement to the House on 18 October setting out more detail on what this means.

Nuclear Power Stations: Insurance

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what information his Department holds for benchmarking purposes on the level of private insurance cover available to operators of nuclear installations in other countries. [18667]

Charles Hendry: We do not hold any specific information on the level of private insurance cover available to nuclear operators in other countries.

Renewable Energy

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he intends to classify as renewable heat pumps which fail to meet the required EU standard of coefficient of performance; and if he will make a statement. [17764]

Gregory Barker: Heat pumps that do not meet the required average seasonal performance factor, as defined in Annex VII of the use of energy from renewables sources Directive 2009/28/EC, will not count as renewable.

Mark Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of electricity generated in the UK was attributable to *(a)* wind power and *(b)* other sources in the latest period figures are available. [18270]

Charles Hendry *[holding answer 19 October 2010]*: July 2010 is the latest period for which figures are available. The proportion of electricity supplied by fuel type is given in the following table.

Fuel type	*Percentage net electricity supplied*
Wind	3.0
Coal	28.1
Gas	49.5
Nuclear	17.5
Other[1]	1.9

[1] Net supply by pumped storage is negative. This has been deducted from the 'other' category so the figures sum to 100.

Note:

Monthly figures relate to electricity supplied by major power producers.

Renewable Energy: Heating

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will make it his policy to proceed with the Renewable Heat Incentive only if it shows a positive net cost benefit and it passes a cost-effectiveness test. [17291]

Gregory Barker: This Government are fully committed to taking action on renewable heat; this is a crucial part of ensuring we meet our renewables targets, cutting carbon and ensuring energy security. All DECC policy proposals are subjected to a rigorous cost-benefit analysis and tested for cost-effectiveness as part of the policy making process.

The following table shows the latest estimates on the cost of abating each tonne of carbon dioxide under each of the renewable schemes:

Policy	*Cost-effectiveness*
RHI (based on February 2010 RHI consultation publication)	Traded sector: £57/tCO$_2$ Non-traded sector: £75/tCO$_2$
Feed in tariffs (based on impact assessment accompanying Government response, February 2010)	Traded sector: £460/tCO$_2$
Renewables obligation (based on analysis for impact assessment accompanying RO order 2010)	Traded sector: £115/tCO$_2$

Cost-effectiveness indicators are presented in 2009 prices. For RHI the indicator covers the period 2010 to 2045. For RO and FiTs the period covered is 2010 to 2030.

The Government are considering responses to the renewable heat incentive consultation and will set out detailed proposals on how to take forward action on renewable heat following the spending review. Further discussions of the costs, benefits and other features of the policy will be presented as part of the final impact assessment.

Wind Power

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which body is responsible for the decommissioning of wind farms at the end of their life; and what estimate he has made of the decommissioning cost per mast. [17912]

Charles Hendry: The owner of an onshore wind farm is responsible for decommissioning at the end of its life. The obligation to decommission is enforced by the relevant local planning authority in the case of onshore wind farms and the Department of Energy and Climate Change in the case of offshore wind farms.

The cost per mast of decommissioning a wind farm will vary depending on a number of factors including the size, location and physical structure of the turbine.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Apprentices: Businesses

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to increase the number of apprenticeships offered by businesses. [18289]

Mr Hayes: Our intention is to boost the supply of genuine, high quality, employer-owned apprenticeship places, in particular at Level 3 and above which is why we have redirected £150 million in funding to create 50,000 additional apprenticeship places in 2010-11.

An advanced economy needs advanced skills, so we want to improve progression routes through apprenticeships into higher level skills and professional development. The coalition Government are committed to improving the quality of apprenticeships to make them better suited to the needs of employers and extend the opportunity they offer to more learners. Our future plans for apprenticeships will be set out in more detail in our skills strategy which we will publish this autumn.

Charity Research Support Fund

Mrs Glindon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has for the future funding of the Charity Research Support Fund. [17992]

Mr Willetts: The Government recognise the significant contribution made by charitable funders of research. The charity support element of Quality Related research funding, provided by the Higher Education Funding Council for England, has recognised the public benefit arising from research funded by charities. I cannot pre-empt decisions on detailed allocations which will be made over the coming months.

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will provide funding for research on the relationship between retrovirals and myalgic encephalomyelitis. [18037]

Mr Willetts: The Medical Research Council (MRC) is one of the main agencies through which the Government support medical and clinical research. In keeping with the Haldane Principle, prioritisation of an individual Research Council's spending within its allocation is not a decision for Ministers. Such decisions are rightly left to those best placed to evaluate the scientific efficacy of proposed research.

The MRC is committed to supporting scientific research into all aspects of ME, including studies into the biological basis of the condition and evaluations of treatments. In 2009/10 the MRC spent £109,000 on research directly relating to ME.

Higher Education: Females

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of women studying in universities who would make repayments on student loans for 30 years or more after leaving higher education under the proposals in the Browne Review. [18188]

Mr Willetts: The Browne review proposes that student loan borrowers do not start to make repayments until their income rises above £21,000 per annum, at 9% of the excess, and with an interest rate rising to the retail prices index plus 2.2% for higher-earning graduates. It proposes that no student loan borrower makes repayments after 30 years, because any outstanding sum at that date would be written off. Based on projections of graduate earnings, and time out of the work force, we estimate that, if the Browne proposals were implemented, 75% of women leaving university with a student loan of £30,000 would benefit from such a write-off. A further 5-10% will have their balance written off during the 30 years due to death or disability. 15-20% will repay fully within the 30-year period.

Higher Education: Finance

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department has made an assessment of the effects of a graduate tax on the number of people seeking to enter high-earning professions. [13348]

Mr Willetts: The Independent Review of Higher Education Funding and Student Finance, led by Lord Browne, has now delivered its recommendations to Government. We welcome this report which includes a number of progressive proposals and which makes important recommendations about the structure and level of graduate contributions. In particular, Lord Browne makes it clear that a pure graduate tax is unworkable and is also unfair. While there is no specific assessment of the impact of a graduate tax on those seeking to enter high earning professions, the report shows that graduates would be faced by uncapped costs that could be several multiples of the cost of their degree.

Higher Education: Private Sector

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what meetings *(a)* he, *(b)* the Minister of State for Higher Education, *(c)* other Ministers in his Department and *(d)* officials in his Department have had with (i) BPP and (ii) other private companies operating higher education institutions with degree-awarding powers since his appointment. [15410]

Mr Willetts: BPP University College of Professional Studies is the only private company conducting an institution with degree-awarding powers. The Secretary of State, the Minister of State for Further Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning and I met with BPP University College of Professional Studies, as a part of a wider meeting with representatives of the higher education sector, on 12 July 2010. Officials have also had conversations with staff from BPP University College of Professional Studies as part of the normal course of business but I understand no formal meetings have taken place since the Government came to office.

Higher Education: Sunderland

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many young people resident in Sunderland entered university or higher education in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2010. [18189]

Mr Willetts: In the 1997/98 academic year, there were 820 young (aged under 21) undergraduate entrants from Sunderland local authority to UK higher education institutions (universities and higher education colleges), excluding the Open University. In the 2008/09 academic year, the equivalent figure was 1,265.

This is the latest available information from the Higher Education Statistics Agency. Figures for the 2009/10 academic year will become available from January 2011. Comparable local authority-level information on entrants to higher education courses at further education colleges is not available. Figures exclude the Open University due to inconsistencies in their coding of entrants across the time period specified. The Department has recently received updated parliamentary constituency data; therefore figures may not match those previously published.

Mail Services: VAT

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what information his Department holds on the number of *(a)* organisations which provide business mail services and *(b)* such organisations which supply (i) services which are exempt from value added tax and (ii) only those services which are standard rated for value added tax purposes. [18385]

Mr Davey: I understand this question to refer to postal operators in the UK.

At present there are around 51 licensed postal operators in the UK, including Royal Mail.

VAT is a matter for HM Treasury and HM Revenue and Customs. I am however advised that under current UK VAT legislative provisions, all postal services provided by Royal Mail, as the universal service provider, are treated as exempt, including stamped, bulk and express mail. All other postal service providers are, in principle, required to charge VAT at the standard rate. However, other postal operators who make use of Royal Mail's facilities to deliver post for the 'final mile', can take advantage of special VAT arrangements to treat this element—which accounts for a significant proportion of the onward charge to their customer—as a 'disbursement' and only charge and account for VAT on the remaining amount.

Royal Mail's exemption from VAT for postal services in the UK is currently the subject of legislative amendment as part of the Finance Bill which is progressing through Parliament. This follows a European Court of Justice decision which confirmed that Royal Mail, as the sole operator providing the universal postal service, is the only postal body in the UK eligible to exempt postal services from VAT. However, it also ruled that exemption does not apply to all Royal Mail's postal services and as such, those services which are either individually negotiated or not subject to price and regulatory control (such as Parcelforce and Mailmedia) will become liable to VAT at the standard rate. These changes are due to come into effect from 31 January 2011.

Manufacturing Industries: West Midlands

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to provide support for manufacturing industries in the West Midlands. [18287]

Mr Prisk: The Government are supporting the manufacturing industry, both nationally and in the West Midlands, by creating a stable business environment that will give businesses the confidence they need to plan and invest for the future. We are doing this by creating a more supportive tax environment, freeing up credit through the banking system, reducing regulation, maximising the flexibility of the labour market and focusing on training and apprenticeships. For example, we have already redirected £150 million to create up to 50,000 extra apprenticeships, which will be workplace-based and employer-led.

We are also restructuring the delivery landscape for economic development by replacing the regional development agencies (RDAs) with local enterprise partnerships which better reflect the natural economic geography of the areas that they serve. This will ensure a focussed, targeted delivery of policy/services in areas where it can have the most benefit. We believe this approach will provide the best support for manufacturing in the West Midlands by creating the conditions for local businesses to grow.

In the longer term, we are keen to ensure that we provide the right conditions in which manufacturing can grow, recognising the vital role it plays in the UK economy. To this end, later in the year we will be launching a new approach to manufacturing that will highlight key ambitions, identify growth opportunities and set out a new framework of actions for both Government and industry.

Public Finance

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has to publish equality impact assessments undertaken by his Department as part of the comprehensive spending review; and if he will make a statement. [18028]

Mr Davey *[holding answer 19 October 2010]:* The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has been taking equality issues into account in its work towards the spending review. Information will be published as proposals are announced and developed.

The Department has also established an Equalities Impact Assessment Peer Review Group who will review the equalities impact assessments for the spending review once the granularity in terms of impact can be further incorporated.

Small Businesses: Company Accounts

Mr Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will introduce proposals to require small companies to submit audited accounts to Companies House for scrutiny. [18864]

Mr Davey: The Government have no plans to introduce proposals to require all small companies to produce audited accounts.

Women and Work Sector Pathways Initiative: Financial Support

Roberta Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how much matched *(a)* financial support and *(b)* non-financial support has been provided by employers in (i) City of Durham constituency and (ii) the North East to the Women and Work Sector Pathways Initiative; [18282]

(2) what proportion of women participating in the Women and Work Sector Pathways Initiative have achieved a qualification associated with participation *(a)* nationally, *(b)* from City of Durham constituency and *(c)* the North East; [18284]

(3) how many employers in City of Durham constituency have taken part in the Women and Work Sector Pathways Initiative since its inception; [18285]

(4) how many employers in *(a)* City of Durham constituency, *(b)* the North East and *(c)* England have nominated more than one woman employee to participate in the Women and Work Sector Pathways Initiative. [18283]

Mr Hayes: Information on the financial and non-financial support provided by employers for the Women and Work programme is retained for each project but is not collated at a constituency or regional level.

We estimate that around 4% of all learners that completed training nationally received a qualification through their participation in the programme. There is no breakdown at constituency or regional level.

Constituency level data is not available for the number of employers participating in the Women and Work programme. Since 2006 approximately 1,098 employers across England have participated in the programme of which 45% (495 employers) have put through more than one woman. For 241 of the employers out of the 495 total no region is specified. Based on the 254 employers for which the regional location is known there were 12 employers based in the North East of England.

TREASURY

Revenue and Customs

Priti Patel: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much HM Revenue and Customs paid to external organisations for departmental services in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [18221]

Mr Gauke: The spend data held by HM Revenue and Customs does not separately identify spend on departmental services from other goods and can be disaggregated only at disproportionate cost.

Revenue and Customs: Compensation

Priti Patel: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on how many occasions HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has issued compensatory payments to people in respect of errors made by HMRC in each of the last 24 months for which figures are available; and what the monetary value was of such payments made in each such month. [18215]

Mr Gauke: Payments made under HMRC's ex gratia financial redress policy for 2008-09 and 2009-10 are published in the HMRC 2009 Annual Report and the HMRC Departmental Accounts for 2009-10. The information is reported on an annual basis and is available at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/reports.htm

Revenue and Customs: Complaints

Priti Patel: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many complaints his Department received in respect of HM Revenue and Customs in each of the last 24 months for which figures are available. [18214]

Mr Gauke: Complaints information for 2008-09 and 2009-10 is published in the HMRC 2009 Annual Report and the HMRC Departmental Accounts for 2009-10. The information is reported on an annual basis and is available at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/reports.htm

Revenue and Customs: Manpower

Priti Patel: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff HM Revenue and Customs employed in each pay band at each grade on the latest date for which figures are available. [18218]

Mr Gauke: The number of staff employed at each pay band and grade on 30 September 2010 was as follows:

Grade	*Headcount*	*Full-time equivalent*
SCS	368	362.56
Grade 6	1,172	1,115.74
Grade 7	2,466	2,359.52
Fast stream/trainee	485	482.87
Senior officer	3,704	3,565.79
Higher officer	9,339	8,813.95
Officer	17,264	15,885.89
Assistant officer	31,012	27,320.75
Administration assistant	8,913	7,591.73
HMRC total	74,723	67,498.80

A two-year pay freeze applies to HMRC staff for grades below senior civil service (SCS) in 2011-12 and 2012-13. This affects everyone earning more than the full-time equivalent of £21,000 a year. A pay freeze is already in place for the SCS in 2010-11.

Priti Patel: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has for the future *(a)* structure and *(b)* staffing of HM Revenue and Customs; and if he will make a statement. [18219]

Mr Gauke: HMRC's future structure and staffing are dependent on implementation of its spending review settlement announced on 20 October. Further details on HMRC's spending review implementation plans will be published in due course.

Revenue and Customs: Pay

Priti Patel: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was paid in bonuses to staff of HM Revenue and Customs in each of the last three years. [18220]

Mr Gauke: HMRC operates two bonus arrangements:

performance bonuses tied to the annual performance for delegated grades and senior civil servants; and

a recognition bonus scheme for delegated grades which recognises exceptional in year performance.

	Total bonuses paid (£)
2007-08	20,209,000
2008-09	13,004,000
2009-10	13,420,000

A two-year pay freeze applies to HMRC staff for grades below senior civil service (SCS) in 2011-12 and 2012-13. This affects everyone earning more than the full-time equivalent of £21,000 a year. As part of the freeze, the bonus pot for staff in delegated grades has been frozen as a percentage of paybill at the previous year's level. A pay freeze is already in place for the SCS in 2010-11.

SCOTLAND

Higher Education: Finance

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent *(a)* assessment he has made of and *(b)* discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on the financial implications for students resident in Scotland and studying in England of the proposal of the Browne review on higher education to raise the threshold for repayments to £21,000. [18863]

Michael Moore: Since taking office, I have had a number of discussions related to higher education with ministerial colleagues. The Browne review poses important questions which will require thorough debate and consultation, and the Government plan to publish a White Paper outlining detailed proposals in the winter.

EDUCATION

Academies

Mark Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether new academy schools will be subject to the same rules on governing bodies as schools which operate under existing legislation. [3174]

Mr Gibb: The academy governing body will be appointed by the academy trust. The process for governor elections is set out in the articles of association and agreed between the academy trust and the Secretary of State. The number of governors shall be not less than three but (unless otherwise determined by ordinary resolution) shall not be subject to any maximum. Membership of the governing body however should include at least two parent governors and the principal.

Academies: Ealing

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will assess the effect of an increase in the number of academy schools on the availability to other schools in the same areas of *(a)* educational psychology, *(b)* educational welfare, *(c)* behavioural support services, *(d)* school meals and free school meals assessment, *(e)* 14-to-16 practical learning options and (f) museum and library services. [9598]

Tim Loughton: Discussions are taking place with representatives of local authorities and academies to ensure that the funding available for education from 2011-12 onwards properly reflects the pressures schools will face.

Local areas are expected to decide how best to use their resources so that local priorities in terms of the needs of children and young people are met in the most coherent, efficient and cost effective way. Greater numbers of academy schools does not of itself force any reduction of education and children's services.

I should add that my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Education announced on 8 July 2010 the formation of a ministerial advisory group on the role of the local authority in relation to education and children's services. This group includes representatives of the Local Government Association and the Association of Directors of Children's Services and will provide a forum in which to explore a range of issues relating to the strategic role of local authorities and their working relationship with different types of school as the number of academies increases. The ministerial group is pursuing more detailed aspects of its work through a number of task and finish groups, one of which covers providing for vulnerable children.

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the spending profile for the Building Schools for the Future programme is in *(a)* 2010-11, *(b)* 2011-12, *(c)* 2012-13 and *(d)* each subsequent year in which the programme is operational. [12184]

Mr Gibb: Projecting the year-on-year phasing of capital grant payments can only be indicative until individual school projects reach financial close when total funding is confirmed and construction milestones (which inform grant payments to local authorities) are clearer.

The current estimate of the spending profile for the Building Schools for the Future programme is as outlined in the following table:

	£ billion
2010-11	1.4
2011-12	1.8
2012-13	1.2
2013-14	0.8
2014-15	0.4
2015-16	0.1

These figures represent capital grant only as PFI credits have already been allocated to all continuing BSF schemes. This profile is based on current estimated programme milestone dates and indicative funding levels and hence is subject to change.

Free Schools: Yorkshire and the Humber

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many applications in respect of his Department's proposed free schools have been received from groups in *(a)* Yorkshire and *(b)* Leeds. [12890]

Mr Gibb: As at 29 September 2010, the Department has received 18 proposals from groups in the Yorkshire region seeking to establish free schools. This includes three proposals received from groups within the Leeds local authority area.

School Leaving: Advisory Services

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what recent assessment for benchmarking purposes he has made of the adequacy of the provision of careers advice for school leavers in England compared to that in *(a)* the rest of the UK and *(b)* other EU countries; [13609]

(2) what his policy is on the provision of careers advice for those leaving compulsory education. [13610]

Mr Hayes: The Government are currently reviewing the provision of careers guidance to young people and adults, as well as the provision of wider information, advice and guidance that helps young people to navigate the choices that they face in order to achieve success in work and life. Evidence suggests that Connexions services are not consistently providing high quality careers guidance to young people. In the most recent Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development comparisons of the proportion of 15 to 19-year-olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET), the UK had the fifth highest rate of the 27 countries that supplied data. Relevant evidence from careers services both in the UK and worldwide will help to inform the future development of careers guidance services.

INDEPENDENT PARLIAMENTARY STANDARDS AUTHORITY COMMITTEE

Departmental Operating Costs

Paul Flynn: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority if the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority will bring forward proposals to reduce its running costs. [18608]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Andrew McDonald:

As Interim Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking if the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority will bring forward proposals to reduce its running costs. (18608)

Even before the Government brought forward its proposals for spending cuts across the public sector, our Board was clear that we should be looking to reduce costs by around 5% per annum. Sir Ian Kennedy, in evidence to the Speaker's Committee for IPSA, has said that we will take into account the Government's target of 25% over five years.

We will be bringing forward our proposals on running costs early next year. These proposals will take account of the additional functions we will be undertaking - not least, a review of MPs' pay and pensions in 2011/12.

Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority: Manpower

Mr Liddell-Grainger: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority what benefits package is being offered to the new member of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority's communications team. [17627]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Andrew McDonald:

As Interim Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what benefits package is being offered to the new member of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority's communications team. 17627.

The benefits received by the Director of Communications are the same as those received by other IPSA staff, namely:

25 days annual leave, rising to 30 days after five years' service

2.5 privilege days per year

opportunity to participate in Civil Service pension arrangements

the offer of an interest-free season ticket loan

sick pay

opportunity to participate in Benenden Healthcare.

Members: Allowances

Mr Wallace: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority if the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority will consider the merits of reimbursing hon. Members for bank charges incurred as a result of delayed payment of claims by the authority; and if he will make a statement. [17341]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Andrew McDonald:

As Interim Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking if we will consider the merits of reimbursing hon. Members for bank charges incurred as a result of delayed payment of claims by the Authority.

The MPs' Expenses Scheme does not allow for reimbursement of bank charges. However, if an MP unavoidably incurs a bank charge which he or she can show is a direct and exclusive result of a delay by IPSA in processing a claim, it will be considered for payment on an exceptional basis. Any such claim will be considered on its individual merits.

CABINET OFFICE

Employment

Mr Clappison: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many and what proportion of *(a)* UK nationals, *(b)* people born in the UK, *(c)* foreign nationals, *(d)* non-UK EU nationals and *(e)* non-EU nationals (i) aged over 16 years and (ii) of working age were in employment in the UK in the third quarter of 2010. [18844]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated October 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many and what proportion of (a) UK nationals, (b) people born in the UK, (c) foreign nationals, (d) non-UK EU nationals and (e) non-EU nationals (i) aged over 16 years and (ii) of working age were in employment in the UK in the third quarter of 2010. (18844)

The requested information will not be available until the publication of the November 2010 Labour Market Statistical bulletin on 17 November 2010.

Unemployment: Wolverhampton

Paul Uppal: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many children were living in workless households in Wolverhampton South West constituency in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* 2010. [18005]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated October 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your question concerning how many children were living in workless households in Wolverhampton South West constituency in (a) 2005, (b) 2007 and (c) 2010. (18005).

The figures requested come from the Annual Population Survey household datasets, for which 2010 is not yet available It is not possible to provide reliable estimates for Wolverhampton South West constituency because of small sample sizes. However, the attached table shows estimates for Wolverhampton local authority which has a larger sample size. The table provides information for 2005, 2007 and 2008, the last date for which information is available.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty. This is captured in a confidence interval, defined by lower and upper bounds, such that the interval formed between the bounds would contain the true value for 95% of all possible samples.

Children[1] living in workless households[2] in Wolverhampton local authority

Thousand

Wolverhampton local authority	*Estimate*	*Lower bound*[3]	*Upper bound*[3]
January-December 2005	10	7	13
January-December 2007	11	8	15
January-December 2008	14	10	17

[1] Children refers to children under 16.
[2] Households including at least one person aged 16-64.
[3] 95% confidence interval which means that from all samples possible there would be 95% certainty that the true estimate would lie within the lower and upper bounds.
Source:
APS household dataset.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Departmental Rail Travel

Mr Winnick: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many times he has travelled *(a)* first and *(b)* standard class by train on official duties since 7 May 2010. [18606]

The Deputy Prime Minister: My travel is arranged in the most efficient and cos[illegible]ffective way, using trains wherever possible. Such arrangements are made in accordance with the provisions for official travel set out in Chapter 10 of the Ministerial Code.

Members: Conduct

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what progress he has made in bringing forward proposals to introduce powers for people to recall their hon. Member; and if he will make a statement. [18234]

Mr Harper: The coalition programme for Government included a commitment to bring forward legislation to introduce a power of recall. We are currently considering what would be the fairest, most appropriate and robust procedure.

JUSTICE

Comprehensive Spending Review

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to publish equality impact assessments undertaken by his Department as part of the comprehensive spending review; and if he will make a statement. [18197]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice (MOJ) is taking equality into account in its work on the spending review. Equality impact assessments will be published when the MOJ publishes detailed proposals for delivering its spending review agreement.

Courts: Trials and Sentencing

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many of those remanded in custody awaiting sentence at the last HM Courts Service monthly census date were *(a)* awaiting sentence at the Crown Court, *(b)* awaiting sentence at a magistrates' court, *(c)* had been arrested on a no bail warrant and *(d)* were in custody for other reasons; [18560]

(2) how many of those remanded in custody and not yet tried at the last HM Courts Service monthly census date were *(a)* awaiting trial at the Crown Court, *(b)* awaiting trial at a magistrates' court, *(c)* had appeared in court but not yet entered a plea, *(d)* had been charged but not yet appeared in court, *(e)* had been arrested on a no bail warrant and *(f)* were in custody for other reasons. [18561]

Mr Blunt: Data are published monthly on the number of offenders in custody on remand untried and the number on remand convicted but unsentenced. The most recent data for August 2010 were published on the Ministry of Justice website in "Population in custody monthly tables August 2010 England and Wales"—Table 1—and are available through the following link:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/populationincustody.htm

The Court Proceedings Database held by the Ministry of Justice holds information on defendants proceeded against for criminal offences in England and Wales. These data include information on the age and sex of the defendants, the court where proceedings took place as well as the outcome for specific offences including sentencing information. The Court Proceedings Database does not hold information on whether the defendants proceeded against were on bail at the time of committing their offence, or the criminal history of defendants. Circumstances leading to an arrest and charge of an offender are not recorded on the database and could only be provided through manual checking of court and prisoner records at disproportionate cost.

As at 31 August 2010 there were a total of 13,028 remand offenders in prison of whom 8,802 were untried and 4,226 were convicted but unsentenced.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Management Companies: Fees and Charges

Jake Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will bring forward proposals to regulate the payment of referral fees to claims management companies by solicitors. [18127]

Mr Djanogly: The payment of referral fees is already subject to regulation. The Ministry of Justice is responsible for the direct regulation of claims management companies, who are subject to part 2 of the Compensation Act 2006.

Solicitors, who are regulated by the Solicitors Regulatory Authority (SRA), must in relation to referral fees comply with the Solicitors' Code of Conduct 2007 (rule 9).

The Government are aware of concerns over referral fees and we note that this issue has been considered by Lord Young in his report 'Common Sense, Common Safety' (published on 15 October 2010) and by Lord Jackson in his report 'Review of Civil Litigation Costs' (published 14 January 2010). The Government welcome Lord Young's report and in regard to Lord Jackson's report will be issuing a consultation paper later this autumn.

The Legal Services Board, as the oversight regulator of the legal profession in England and Wales, has launched a consultation entitled 'Referral Fees, Referral Arrangements and Fee Sharing'. The consultation ends on 22 December 2010. The conclusions of this consultation will be carefully considered by the SRA and will help to inform the Government's position on referral fees.

Personal Injury Lawyers: Advertising

Jake Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will bring forward proposals to restrict advertising by personal injury lawyers. [18126]

Mr Djanogly: Solicitors are regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority, the regulatory arm of the Law Society. The use of advertisements and other forms of publicity by solicitors is regulated by the Solicitors' Code of Conduct 2007. The code provides that firms are generally free to advertise their services, subject to the requirements of rule 7. Rule 7 of the code permits solicitors to publicise their firms in a number of ways ensuring that clients and the public have appropriate information about the firm and the way it is regulated, but prohibiting misleading or inaccurate publicity and inappropriate approaches for business.

Following Lord Young's report on health and safety and compensation culture to restrict advertising by personal injury lawyers I am aware that Lord Young has written to the SRA, expressing his concerns about the regulations currently in place. I have asked the SRA to inform me of their plans regarding any future changes to regulation.

The SRA is currently consulting on a new code of conduct, and will be working with Lord Young's team, the Legal Services Board and the Ministry of Justice/Claims Management Regulator and other stakeholders to ensure that clients' interests are protected, and that solicitors' publicity is not likely to diminish the trust the public places in solicitors and the provision of legal services.

Prisoners: Interviews

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the number of prisoners granted permission to give media interviews in each year since 1997; on what date permission was granted in each case; to which prisoners such permission was given; for which offences each had been convicted; and what the cost to the public purse of processing the interview request was in each case. [18208]

Mr Blunt: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) has no record of the number of prisoners granted face to face interviews with journalists since 1997. Prior to a change to the policy in July 2010, decisions to allow prisoners to have interviews with journalists were made by governors and no central records were collated. It is not possible to provide information on the number, date and cost of interviews or the type of prisoners granted face to face access to journalists. The new policy requires governors to refer all requests for face to face interviews to the Ministry of Justice Press Office for approval on behalf of the Secretary of State for Justice. No decisions on whether to allow an interview have been made since July 2010.

Prisons: Wales

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects to announce the prospective sites in North Wales for a prison. [18588]

Mr Blunt: In October 2009, the Ministry of Justice began a site search for sites suitable for 1,500-place prisons in the priority areas of North West England, North Wales, West Yorkshire and Greater London as part of the new prisons programme. A number of sites in North Wales have been put forward.

The Ministry of Justice is committed to publishing a Green Paper on Rehabilitation and Sentencing, consulting on our longer term plans for offender management. As a consequence the Ministry will re-evaluate its strategy for prison capacity.

Tribunal, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007: Debt Collection

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department plans to implement the provisions of Schedule 12 of the Tribunal, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007 to appoint an independent regulator of bailiff and debt collection organisations. [18699]

Mr Djanogly: Schedule 12 of the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007 does not provide for the appointment of an independent regulator of bailiff and debt collection organisations.

We have given a commitment to provide more protection against aggressive bailiffs. We are developing options for public consultation on "Protection against Aggressive Bailiffs" including the need for better regulation of bailiffs.

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department plans to undertake a public consultation on the implementation of Schedule 12 of the Tribunal, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007. [18839]

Mr Djanogly: We have given a commitment to provide more protection against aggressive bailiffs. We are developing options for public consultation on "Protection against Aggressive Bailiffs" including the potential implementation of Schedule 12 of the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007.

Written Answers to Questions

Friday 22 October 2010

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Security Forces

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what information his Department holds on the number of persons who have *(a)* enlisted in and *(b)* deserted from the (i) Afghan National Army and (ii) Afghan Police in each of the last 12 months. [18668]

Dr Fox: We are making excellent progress on growing the Afghan national security forces and are currently ahead of schedule for meeting the target of 171,600 Afghan National Army and 134,000 Afghan National Police by the end of 2011.

Recruitment and retention are matters for the Government of Afghanistan but we will continue to work closely with them to help build their capacity and capability.

Armed Forces: Young People

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has sought legal advice from *(a)* the Attorney-General and *(b)* external sources on the compatibility with human rights legislation of the terms of service in the armed forces of people under the age of 18 years. [18242]

Mr Robathan: The long-standing rule, recognised by successive Governments, states that whether advice has been or has not been received from the Attorney-General is not normally disclosed outside Government. We are content that our personnel's terms and conditions of service are fully compatible with human rights legislation.

The UK ratified the Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict in June 2003. It requires all feasible measures to be taken to ensure that members of the armed forces who have not attained the age of 18 years do not take part in hostilities.

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what representations he has received on the Government's response to the recommendations in respect of under 18-year-olds in the Army contained in the 25th Report from the Joint Committee on Human Rights, Session 2008-09, on Children's Rights, HC 318. [18260]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 19 October 2010]:* The Department has received five letters from Members of Parliament and interested parties which make specific reference to the 25th Report of the Joint Committee on Human Rights on Children's Rights.

BAE Systems

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what meetings he has had with BAE Systems on the recent *(a)* grounding of the BAE Systems Hawk T.1 Trainer and *(b)* temporary suspension of all but non-essential Typhoon aircraft. [18013]

Peter Luff: None. Ministry of Defence officials have, however, had a number of meetings with BAE Systems in order to maintain the continued airworthiness of the Hawk T1 and Typhoon aircraft.

Both aircraft fleets are currently airworthy and available for operational tasking.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* officials and *(b)* external advisers are working on his Department's Strategic Defence and Security Review. [16562]

Dr Fox: Within the Ministry of Defence (MOD), a team of about 30 people was established to co-ordinate the Defence contribution to the Strategic Defence and Security Review. A wide range of personnel across the MOD and armed forces participated in developing that contribution.

The Department also consulted a number of external experts during the Review. The National Security Secretariat in the Cabinet Office conducted a series of formal and informal consultation exercises with external experts which senior officials from the MOD participated in. No external experts were employed by the Department for this work.

Departmental Visits Abroad

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on overseas visits for senior officials in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [18415]

Mr Robathan: Business expenses incurred by the most senior civil servants (director general and above) on official visits, including overseas, are published by the Ministry of Defence on a quarterly basis at the following website:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/FinancialReports/Expenses/SeniorStaffBusinessExpenses.htm

Radioactive Materials: Transport

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 30 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 484W, on radioactive materials: transport, what the cost of the procurement of new truck cargo heavy duty tractor heads and trailer refurbishment was; and what the unit cost was of the new vehicles. [17925]

Peter Luff: The total cost of the procurement of nine new truck cargo heavy duty tractor heads, eight refurbished truck cargo heavy duty trailers plus associated research and development costs was £12 million at outturn prices.

Strategic Defence and Security Review

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* meetings and *(b)* other consultation his Department has (i) held and (ii) planned with members of academia as part of his Department's Strategic Defence and Security Review. [17179]

Dr Fox: The Ministry of Defence has engaged a wide variety of academic organisations, including the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI), the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) and Chatham House. I have also spoken on a number of occasions at these institutes on the Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR), as have my officials and senior members of the armed services. This engagement will continue into the SDSR implementation stage.

Trident

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the likely savings accruing to his Department's research and development budget for the new generation of Trident missiles of postponing the programme for those missiles by one year. [16722]

Dr Fox: The Trident D5 missile is expected to remain in-service until the 2040s. While there is some associated life extension work to allow that length of service, as the 2006 White Paper "The Future of the United Kingdom's Nuclear Deterrent" (Cm 6694) made clear

> "decisions on whether we wish to acquire a successor to the life-extended D5 missile and what form any successor might take are unlikely to be necessary until the 2020s".

There is therefore no planned research and development spend on a new generation of ballistic missile at this point.

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of extending the service life of a Vanguard Class submarine by *(a)* one year and *(b)* each of the subsequent four years after its original decommissioning date. [16776]

Dr Fox: As the 2006 White Paper "The Future of the United Kingdom's Nuclear Deterrent" (Cm 6994) made clear, we will extend the life of the Vanguard Class beyond its original decommissioning date by five years to deliver a service life of 30 years. To achieve that five year extension will require three additional Long Overhaul Periods (LOPs). Planning is at an early stage but initial estimates suggest this will cost around £1.3 billion between 2014 and 2024.

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to publish the Initial Gate Business Case for the Trident successor programme once it has been approved; and whether he will publish a summary of the expected costs of the successor programme following such approval. [17297]

Dr Fox: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for North Ayrshire and Arran (Katy Clark) on 12 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 447W.

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the last formal design review of Trident nuclear warhead took place; and when the next such review is expected to take place. [17299]

Dr Fox: The most recent formal Trident nuclear warhead design review was undertaken in 2006. The date of the next such review has yet to be decided.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the Initial Gate for the Trident successor programme to be approved by *(a)* the Investment Approvals Board and *(b)* his Department. [18018]

Dr Fox: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 12 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 447W, to the hon. Member for North Ayrshire and Arran (Katy Clark).

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Bible: Anniversaries

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether his Department plans to mark the 400th anniversary of the first publication of the King James Bible in 2011. [18366]

Mr Vaizey: The Department is not planning to mark this anniversary. However, the British Library plans to highlight the linguistic contribution of the King James Bible in its exhibition on the English language, 'Evolving English', scheduled for November 2010 to April 2011 in London. It plans to feature a first edition from 1611 as a star exhibit.

Digital Broadcasting: Radio

Jake Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what his policy is on steps to protect the interests of smaller commercial radio stations during digital switchover. [18128]

Mr Vaizey: Government recognise the importance of local commercial radio stations to the communities they serve and have committed to reserving part of the FM spectrum as a platform for local and community radio stations, for as long as it is needed.

In addition the vast majority of digital receivers already receive FM and Government will work to ensure all future digital sets incorporate FM.

Digital Economy Act 2010

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of OFCOM's performance in discharging its duties under the Digital Economy Act 2010; and if he will make a statement. [18043]

Mr Vaizey: I have been asked to reply in my capacity as a Minister in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

This Department is in regular contact with Ofcom about its work on developing the Code of Practice known as "The Online Copyright Infringement Initial Obligations Code". The making of the code by order requires the consent of the Secretary of State and the code will be laid before Parliament, before coming into force. Under section 126D (2) (b) of the Communications Act 2003 Ofcom has been notified that the code must be made by 31 March 2011. I have every expectation that Ofcom will be able to meet that deadline.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will publish the data used by his Department to inform its decisions on the apportionment of costs for the implementation of the notice sending regime under the Digital Economy Act 2010. [18044]

Mr Vaizey: I have been asked to reply in my capacity as a Minister in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The Department has consulted extensively on the policy underpinning the file-sharing provisions in the Digital Economy Act. Decisions on the apportionment of costs were informed by the data about costs supplied to this Department as a result of those consultations and a specific consultation on the proposals for cost sharing.

The first consultation on unlawful P2P and the responses can be found at:

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20100216092443/http://www.berr.gov.uk/consultations/page47141.html

The second consultation on the DEA proposals and the responses can be found at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/Consultations/illicit-p2p-file-sharing?cat=closedwithresponse

The consultation on cost sharing can be found at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/Consultations/online-infringement-of-copyright?cat=closedwithresponse

EU Law

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate he made of the cost to his Department and its non-departmental public bodies of compliance with *(a)* domestic, *(b)* European and *(c)* other international human rights requirements in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [18742]

John Penrose: Compliance with the requirements of human rights instruments whether domestic, European or international is part of the mainstream activity of the Department, and, where appropriate, its arm's length bodies.

We are unable to disaggregate the cost of human rights work without incurring disproportionate cost.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will estimate the cost to his Department and its non-departmental public bodies of implementing and monitoring compliance with legislation transposing EU requirements in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [18889]

John Penrose: Compliance with EU requirements is part of the mainstream activity of the Department, and, where appropriate, its arm's length bodies.

There are however no records of the costs to the Department in implementing and monitoring compliance with EU requirements. As such no reasonable estimate can be made, save at disproportionate cost.

Film

Jake Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what consideration he has given to the merits of introducing a UK film quota. [18130]

Mr Vaizey: At a recent roundtable with various organisations involved in the film industry, which discussed how best to strengthen its sustainability, a number of those present commented on the pivotal role played by distribution in the film value chain. This is something we will explore further with the industry in the coming months. Consideration will inevitably be given to all the distribution options available at that stage.

Newspaper Press

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what meetings Ministers in his Department have had with *(a)* Rebekah Brooks, *(b)* James Murdoch and *(c)* representatives of News International since 6 September 2010; and if he will make a statement. [17852]

Mr Vaizey: Since 6 September 2010, Ministers in the Department for Culture, Media and Sport have not formally met with Rebekah Brooks, James Murdoch or other representatives of News International Ltd.

Olympic Games 2012: Business

Andrew Bingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent estimate he has made of the average cost to a small business of compliance with the bidding process for contracts related to the London 2012 Olympic Games set out on the Business Link Olympics website. [18352]

Mr Prisk: I have been asked to reply.

This Department has made no such assessment.

The free "CompeteFor" service enables all businesses to compete for many contract opportunities linked to the London 2012 games. However, the actual cost of bidding for such contracts depends on the requirements of the buyer, which may vary, depending on the type of product or service being procured. Business Link advice is available to help bidders.

TRANSPORT

Aviation: Carbon Emissions

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent progress he has made in securing agreement at global level on reducing aviation emissions. [18331]

Mrs Villiers: At the 37th Assembly of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), which took place between 28 September and 8 October, a climate change resolution was adopted which agreed the following:

> A collective, global aspirational goal of carbon neutral growth from 2020 for international aviation in addition to a 2% per year fuel efficiency improvement;
>
> 15 guiding principles for the design and implementation of market-based measures for international aviation;
>
> Work to develop a framework for market-based measures;
>
> Exemptions from certain activities for small emitters;
>
> Provisions on assistance for developing states.

While this agreement represents a significant step forward internationally, the UK, along with 43 other European states, placed a collective reservation on those elements of the resolution where we believed more ambition is required and where the text could potentially compromise the effective introduction of aviation into the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS) in 2012. A number of other states also placed reservations on this resolution for different reasons.

This is the first global sectoral emissions target but the UK remains committed to pressing for more ambitious international action on tackling the climate change impacts of aviation and in the meantime we will continue with preparations to include aviation in the EU ETS.

Aviation: Insolvency

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what discussions he has had with Air Travel Organisers' Licensing on reform of its financial protection scheme; [17690]

(2) if he will bring forward proposals to guard against future failures of tour operators and airlines. [17691]

Mrs Villiers: We are taking the need to update the Air Travel Organisers' Licensing (ATOL) financial protection scheme very seriously, and are working on what can be done to ensure that it remains relevant to today's travel market. The Department for Transport is having ongoing discussions with the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) regarding possible options for reforming ATOL and we hope to be able to make an announcement soon.

The finances of UK airlines are regularly monitored by the CAA as a condition of the operating licences issued by the authority, which should reduce the risk of failure. I understand that the European Commission is considering the options for airline insolvency protection across the EU.

Driving Offences: Visits Abroad

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many motorists had their driving licence endorsed with points for offences committed while overseas in each of the last five years. [19457]

Mike Penning: There is no mutual recognition of penalty points between Great Britain and other countries, therefore the answer is none.

Employment: Legislation

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what employment legislation his Department is responsible; and what progress his Department has made on the Government's review of employment law. [18927]

Norman Baker: Department for Transport officials are collating information on all employment law that affects the transport sector. This work has had to follow more immediate priorities in the reducing regulation agenda and will be developed in conjunction with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Motor Vehicles: Registration

Angie Bray: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what measures his Department is taking to ensure that drivers with foreign number plates are *(a)* complying with the requirement to register their vehicle properly and *(b)* if not, if he intends to ensure that this is enforced. [18521]

Mike Penning: The Department for Transport has operated a strategy of education, warning and direct enforcement action to help tackle non-compliant unlicensed foreign vehicles.

The approach has included presentations to community leaders, articles in the media and the issue of information leaflets. It also involves warning notices being placed on vehicle's windscreens.

If there is evidence that a foreign vehicle is in breach of the rules, it can be clamped and impounded.

Railways: Finance

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has made an estimate of the expenditure by each train operating company on *(a)* stations and *(b)* ticketing systems in the last 10 years. [18371]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 20 October 2010]:* Ministers have not made an estimate of the expenditure by each train operating company on either stations or ticketing systems in the last 10 years.

Roads: Accidents

Simon Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road traffic *(a)* accidents, *(b)* fatalities, *(c)* accidents involving motorcyclists, *(d)* fatalities involving motorcyclists, *(e)* accidents involving cyclists and *(f)* fatalities involving cyclists there were in (i) Norfolk and (ii) Norwich South constituency in each of the last five years. [19122]

Mike Penning: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Reported personal injury road accidents and fatalities, accidents involving motorcyclists and pedal cyclists and fatalities in these accidents: Norfolk local authority and Norwich South constituency[1]: 2005-09

	Year of accident				
	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Norfolk					
All accidents	2,653	2,354	2,411	2,074	1,962
All fatalities	65	66	56	38	50
Accidents involving motorcyclists	386	385	386	351	310
Fatalities in accidents involving motorcyclists[2]	8	10	16	14	10
Accidents involving pedal cyclists	245	211	233	216	233
Fatalities in accidents involving pedal cyclists[2]	6	5	2	1	1
Norwich South[1]					
All accidents	352	285	306	255	256
All fatalities	1	2	2	0	1
Accidents involving motorcyclists	69	50	55	43	43
Fatalities in accidents involving motorcyclists[2]	0	1	1	0	0
Accidents involving pedal cyclists	83	65	60	58	73
Fatalities in accidents involving pedal cyclists[2]	0	0	1	0	0

[1] Based on 2010 constituency boundary.

[2] Includes fatalities to other road users, not just the road user type specified.

Transport: Finance

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he made of transport spending per head in *(a)* England, *(b)* the UK, *(c)* Yorkshire and the Humber, *(d)* London, *(e)* the North West, *(f)* the West Midlands and *(g)* the North East in 2008-09. [17033]

Norman Baker: The HM Treasury annual publication Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses (PESA) details identifiable transport expenditure per head for 2008-09 as follows:

(a) England: £314;

(b) the UK £334;

(c) Yorkshire and the Humber £248;

(d) London £641;

(e) the North West £287;

(f) the West Midlands £259; and

(g) the North East £234.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Armed Forces: Children

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what occasions he has raised the issue of child soldiering with his counterparts in those countries where the practice is prevalent since his appointment. [19045]

Mr Bellingham: In his speech on 'Britain's Values in a networked world' on 15 September 2010, my right hon. friend the Foreign Secretary said:

> "Our starting point for engagement on human rights with all countries will be based on what is practical, realistic and achievable, although we will always be ready to speak out as a matter of principle."

Although my right hon. friend the Foreign Secretary has not yet had occasion to raise the issue of child soldiering in bilateral contacts since his appointment, our ambassadors overseas do so as a matter of course with relevant interlocutors. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office also maintains regular contacts with the Office of the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary General on Children and Armed Conflict, and used the UN Open debate on 16 June and the 15th session of the UN Human Rights Council on 13 September 2010 to press for further action by serious offenders. We will continue to call for protection of children in armed conflict, and encourage co-operation of armed groups and national governments with the United Nations in particular.

Nagorno-Karabakh

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to seek to secure progress in respect of the political situation in Nagorno-Karabakh. [18505]

Mr Lidington: I have recently encouraged both Azerbaijan and Armenia to work with the Minsk Group towards a durable peaceful settlement, and to avoid unhelpful exchanges of rhetoric. I spoke to the Armenian Foreign Minister, Edward Nalbandian, on 18 October, and met President Aliyev, Foreign Minister Mammadyarov and other key figures during my visit to Azerbaijan on 20 and 21 October and delivered these messages, reiterating the UK's support for the Minsk Group process.

Transcaucasus: British Nationals Abroad

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made a recent estimate of the number of British nationals resident in *(a)* Armenia, *(b)* Azerbaijan and *(c)* Georgia. [18503]

Mr Lidington: The most recent estimates from our embassies in the South Caucasus are that there are the following numbers of British residents: *(a)* around 50 in Armenia, *(b)* around 2,000 in Azerbaijan, and *(c)* around 200 in Georgia.

Zimbabwe: Politics and Government

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will discuss with his counterparts in southern African countries the implications for the stability of the region of the announcement by President Mugabe of his intention to end the coalition government in Zimbabwe. [19046]

Mr Bellingham: We discuss the situation in Zimbabwe regularly with our interlocutors at all levels in the southern African region, including its regional implications. We will continue to do so.

Despite President Mugabe's recent announcements, the Inclusive Government remains in place with no date set for elections. In his statement of 7 October Prime Minister Tsvangirai reaffirmed his commitment to the Inclusive Government, which continues to offer the only credible means of transforming Zimbabwe and delivering basic services to its people.

We will continue to support President Zuma and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) in their efforts to facilitate discussion between the parties in Zimbabwe and to press for the reforms outlined in the Global Political Agreement. Credible and properly conducted elections will be key to Zimbabwe's future. We, with our international partners, will continue to work closely with the region to try and achieve this.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Visits Abroad

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on overseas visits for senior officials in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [18407]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) spent £108,421 on overseas visits for senior officials during the 12 months ending in June 2010.

Somalia: Overseas Aid

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had on steps to ensure the safety of UK-based aid workers in Somalia. [19047]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The UK Government take the safety of British aid workers in Somalia very seriously at all times. The Department for International Development (DFID) works closely with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and other agencies to assess threats and vulnerabilities. The FCO currently advises against all travel to Somalia. Where UK-based aid organisations decide to work in Somalia and choose to discuss this with the UK Government, we make them aware of travel advice and the need for them to ensure that they have adequate security measures in place. The FCO would attempt to provide all possible consular assistance in Somalia, although it should be noted that there is no current HMG representation in the country.

CABINET OFFICE

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether he has made an estimate of the change in the level of carbon dioxide emissions from his Department since May 2010; and what steps he plans to take to meet his Department's target of reducing such emissions by 10% by May 2011. [16803]

Mr Maude: Since May 2010, the Cabinet Office has reduced the carbon emissions from its estate by 9.1% compared to the same period last year. The Department is currently taking forward a series of projects aimed at further reducing its carbon footprint, and meeting the target. These include measures such as the installation of voltage optimisation kit, power factor correction and improving the insulation of buildings on the estate.

Departmental Visits Abroad

David Simpson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much his Department spent on overseas visits for senior officials of *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the Prime Minister's Office, *(c)* the Leader of the House's Office and *(d)* the Deputy Prime Minister's office in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [18419]

Mr Maude: Details of expenses incurred by the Cabinet Office's senior officials can be found on its website:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/about-cabinet-office/plans-performance/expenses.aspx

Honours

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether he plans to review the honours and awards system with a view to changing eligibility criteria; and if he will make a statement. [19008]

Mr Maude: The system of state honours and awards is kept under continuous review. At the request of the Prime Minister, the independent honours committees are now seeking to give particular weight to candidates who have been working in support of the Big Society.

Public Bodies

Mr Bain: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the statement of 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 505-06, what estimate he has made of the wind-up and reorganisation costs in respect of the closure of the non-departmental public bodies, non-ministerial departments and public corporations referred to in the statement in each of the next five years. [18183]

Mr Maude: All costs associated with public bodies reform, including redundancies, will be met from within each Department's budgetary settlement as determined by the spending review.

Mr Bain: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the statement of 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 505-06, what estimate he has made of the net savings likely to accrue from closure of the non-departmental public bodies, non-ministerial departments and public corporations referred to in the statement in each of the next five years. [18184]

Mr Maude: The primary purpose of the quango review is to increase accountability; however, savings will also be generated through cutting down on duplication, executive pay, administrative overheads and communications. From closing RDAs we expect to save £270 million, and from BELTA we expect to save £80 million. However we have purposely not put an overall figure on this as it is down to individual Departments to develop their own implementation plans.

Public Sector Debt: Interest Charges

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the proportion of gross domestic product used to pay interest on the national debt *(a)* between 1980 and 1990, *(b)* between 2000 and 2006 and *(c)* between 2006 and 2010. [18035]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated October 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question to the Chancellor of the Exchequer asking what estimate he has made of the proportion of gross domestic product used to pay interest on the national debt (a) between 1980 and 1990, (b) between 2000 and 2006 and (c) between 2006 and 2010.

For the purposes of your question, we have interpreted 'interest on the national debt' to mean interest and dividends paid by all parts of the public sector, including local authorities and public corporations. Statistics for the 2010 calendar year are not yet available.

Interest and dividends paid by the public sector, expressed as a percentage of gross domestic product, were as follows:

a) 1980 to 1990 inclusive: 4.6%

b) 2000 to 2006 inclusive: 2.2%

c) 2006 to 2009 inclusive: 2.1%

For information, I have attached a table, as an Excel spreadsheet, giving data for each of the calendar years 1980 to 2009 inclusive.

Public sector interest and dividends as a proportion of GDP

	I	*II*	*II*		
	Public sector: Interest and dividends paid to private sector and rest of world (£ million)	*Gross Domestic Product at current prices (£ million)*	*Public sector: Interest and dividends paid as % of GDP*	*Period*	*Public sector: Interest and dividends paid as % of GDP*
1980	11,567	233,184	5.0		
1981	13,838	256,279	5.4		
1982	15,144	281,024	5.4		
1983	15,737	307,207	5.1		
1984	17,220	329,913	5.2		
1985	18,743	361,758	5.2		
1986	18,920	389,149	4.9		
1987	19,612	428,665	4.6		
1988	19,949	478,510	4.2		
1989	20,850	525,274	4.0		
1990	20,720	570,283	3.6	1980 to 1990	4.6
1991	18,523	598,664	3.1		
1992	18,691	622,080	3.0		
1993	19,896	654,196	3.0		
1994	22,813	692,987	3.3		
1995	26,054	733,266	3.6		
1996	27,476	781,726	3.5		
1997	29,163	830,094	3.5		
1998	29,930	879,102	3.4		
1999	26,136	928,730	2.8		
2000	26,200	976,533	2.7		
2001	23,722	1,021,828	2.3		
2002	21,576	1,075,564	2.0		
2003	22,836	1,139,746	2.0		
2004	23,892	1,202,956	2.0		
2005	26,513	1,254,058	2.1		
2006	27,774	1,328,363	2.1	2000 to 2006	2.2
2007	31,774	1,404,845	2.3		

Public sector interest and dividends as a proportion of GDP

	I Public sector: Interest and dividends paid to private sector and rest of world (£ million)	II Gross Domestic Product at current prices (£ million)	II Public sector: Interest and dividends paid as % of GDP	Period	Public sector: Interest and dividends paid as % of GDP
2008	32,943	1,445,580	2.3		
2009	27,271	1,392,634	2.0	2006 to 2009	2.1
2010	—	—	—		—

Voluntary Organisations

Dr Whitehead: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what research his Department has undertaken on the effects of public spending reductions on demand for services provided by the voluntary sector. [18081]

Mr Hurd: The Government recognise this is a particularly challenging time for the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector and are working closely with partners in the sector, across Government, and at the Third Sector Research Centre to understand and mitigate the impact of public spending reductions on the sector. It is currently too early to assess the impact of these reductions on demand for voluntary sector services; however, recent research has demonstrated the increasing demand for services as a result of the recession, in conjunction with a more difficult funding situation.

The Government remain committed to ensuring the sector can play a key role in building a stronger civil society and are working to open up a range of opportunities for the sector. This includes a £100 million fund to support the sector in the transition to delivering public services. We are also working to open up new sources of funding through the Big Society Bank. Throughout this the Government are dedicated to limiting the impact of spending reductions on the sector and are working with local partners and the sector to share best practice in reducing spending.

TREASURY

Departmental Internet

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 14 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 969W, what assessment he has made of the merits of moderating submissions to his Department's Spending Challenge website before they are posted to that site. [16772]

Danny Alexander: The Government received over 100,000 suggestions through the Spending Challenge website, including over 45,000 from members of the public.

We were clear that offensive and inappropriate ideas were not welcome and, initially, a team of moderators pro-actively reviewed ideas post-publication to ensure compliance with our moderation policy. In response to a small number of malicious attacks on the website, the Government took steps to disable interactive features and pre-moderate ideas submitted prior to publication.

Departmental Work Experience

Luciana Berger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many interns his Department has engaged in the last 12 months; and how many were *(a)* unpaid, *(b)* remunerated with expenses only and *(c)* paid a salary. [17220]

Justine Greening: In the past 12 months HM Treasury has engaged 42 paid student placements, all of which were paid above the national minimum wage.

There is no central record of unpaid placements which are occasionally arranged on an ad-hoc basis.

EC Budget

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had at EU level on the orientation of priorities for the reform of the EU budget in the period 2014-20; and if he will make a statement. [18340]

Justine Greening: The Government engage regularly and actively on EU reform issues with other EU member states and with our EU partners at all levels. Discussion of the EU budget for the post-2013 period began just days ago with the publication of the European Commission's Budget Review document.

We are keen to engage in a thorough debate around reform of the EU budget. We will highlight in our discussions with our European partners that the Government aim first and foremost to reduce the overall level of EU spending, in line with the tough budgetary decisions that member states are taking domestically. We will also continue to press the case for re-prioritisation of EU-level spending, with a view to enhancing the effectiveness and value-added of EU budget expenditure within a smaller envelope.

EU Budget

Mr Clappison: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the implications for his Department's policies of *(a)* the European Commission's recent proposals for reforms of the EU budget and *(b)* the likely effect of such proposals on the future of the UK budgetary rebate. [19050]

Justine Greening: We welcome the Commission's focus on the need for reform of the budget to support the EU's priorities—in particular economic growth. But the Review does not go anywhere near far enough on recognising the economic and fiscal context. We need to see a much stronger focus on prioritisation and where savings can be made. The UK will not support a new

EU tax, and such proposals are a distraction from the key issues of how to reduce spending and best support the economy. The Prime Minister also made clear that we will not support any increase to the EU budget in the next Financial Perspective.

The document made no specific proposals on the UK abatement. The Government are committed to preserving the UK abatement.

Income Tax: Gateshead

Ian Mearns: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of people in Gateshead borough *(a)* who will pay no income tax as a result of the increase in personal allowance from April 2011 and *(b)* who were in employment but below the income tax threshold in each of the last three years. [18423]

Justine Greening: The personal allowance for under 65s will be increased by £1,000 in April 2011, with the gains limited to basic rate taxpayers. The Government have estimated that the 880,000 lowest income taxpayers will be removed from tax altogether.

However, the information requested is not available at district level due to small survey sample sizes at this level of geography, and because the information is based on 2007-08 survey data which would not be reliable for this purpose.

Available information on incomes and tax by district based on the latest available Survey of Personal Incomes (2007-08) can be found in Table 3.14 'Income and tax by borough and district or unitary authority':

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_distribution/menu.htm

Please take into account the confidence intervals in table 3.14a 'Income and tax by borough and district or unitary authority, Confidence Intervals'.

Estimates of numbers of employed persons earning below the income tax threshold are not available from HM Revenue and Customs data sources as these are fully representative of taxpayers only. Estimates using Office for National Statistics surveys would not be reliable due to small sample sizes associated with the specific information requested.

Public Finance

Mr Knight: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress has been made on his plans to publish details of all new Government spending over £25,000 from November 2010. [18101]

Danny Alexander: All Departments are on course to meet the new publication requirements. These requirements are to publish expenditure over £25,000 for April to September by the end of October 2010, and then to publish this information on a monthly basis from November 2010 onwards. A small number of Departments have already published their datasets ahead of the end October deadline.

Shares

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has assessed the effects of different classes of shares with differential voting rights on the long-term profitability of public limited companies. [18532]

Mr Davey: I have been asked to reply.

On 22 September 2010 my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills announced his intention to conduct a comprehensive review into corporate governance and economic short-termism.

This review will be published shortly and we will consult on this issue.

VAT: Royal Mail

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the tax revenue foregone in respect of the exemption from value added tax of Royal Mail's business mail services in each year since 2005-06. [18384]

Justine Greening: Figures for the cost of the general postal services exemption are published on HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC) website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax_expenditures/table1-5.xls

HMRC does not provide figures for specific business activities as this would breach taxpayer confidentiality.

HEALTH

Advisory Group for National Specialised Services

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to announce the future arrangements for *(a)* national specialist commissioning and *(b)* the functions and remit of the new Advisory Group for National Specialised Services. [18346]

Mr Simon Burns: Our White Paper "Equity and Excellence—Liberating the NHS" published on 12 July includes our future intentions for the commissioning of specialised services. It proposes that specialised services should in the future be commissioned by the National Health Service Commissioning Board.

The Advisory Group for National Specialised Services (AGNSS) was established following the consultation "Strengthening National Commissioning". The results of the consultation were announced in March 2010. The role of AGNSS is to advise on:

which services and technologies should be nationally commissioned;

which centres should provide them;

the annual budget for nationally commissioned services and technologies; and

the high level strategy for nationally commissioned services and technologies.

AGNSS is an independent stakeholder advisory group. Further details are available at:

www.specialisedservices.nhs.uk/info/agnss

Cancer: Children

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate he has made of the average life expectancy of a child with osteosarcoma who is being treated with conventional treatments. [18345]

Paul Burstow: We know that the prognosis for children diagnosed with osteosarcoma is significantly better when the cancer is found early and has not spread from the bone to other parts of the body. The national health service is expected to ensure that patients with cancer are treated by the right person, with the appropriate expertise, within the agreed waiting times standards.

This Government are committed to improving outcomes for all cancer patients. We have asked National Cancer Director, Professor Sir Mike Richards, to lead a review of the Cancer Reform Strategy (CRS) to align this with proposals in the White Paper to create an NHS that is more responsive to patients' needs. The review will set the direction for cancer services up till 2015, taking account of progress since the CRS was published in December 2007; and show how outcomes can be improved for all cancer patients.

It is not possible to generate an estimate of life expectancy for children undergoing treatment for osteosarcoma. This is because survival data are not available for people below 15 years of age.

Cancer: Drugs

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will reverse the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's decision on the funding of life-extending drugs for cancer patients; and if he will make a statement. [19057]

Paul Burstow: We have no plans to do so. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence is an independent body. Its decisions are based on a thorough assessment of the available evidence and its guidance is developed free from political interference.

An extra £50 million has already been made available in the current financial year to fund additional national health service cancer drugs in England. Building on this, the Cancer Drugs Fund will, from April 2011, provide cancer patients in England with greater access to the clinically effective drugs their doctors think will help extend or improve their quality of life.

Following publication of the spending review, we will publish our consultation on arrangements for the Cancer Drugs Fund very soon. This consultation will set out the available funding for the next three years, along with detail on how we anticipate the fund will operate.

Circumcision

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment his Department has made of the likely effects on health of circumcision of male infants. [19052]

Paul Burstow: The Department has made no recent assessments of the likely effects on health of circumcision of male infants.

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department issues to GPs and health care professionals on the circumcision of male infants. [19053]

Paul Burstow: The Department has not published guidance on male circumcision. General guidance is that doctors should communicate treatment options, outcomes and risks with the patient and gain consent for any procedure. Doctors should make every effort to discuss with parents what is in the best interests of the child. The welfare of infants must be paramount, whatever the reason for undertaking the procedure. Any medical procedure must be undertaken in hygienic conditions, with appropriate pain relief and aftercare.

Dementia: Drugs

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence on its review of dementia drugs. [18522]

Paul Burstow: We have had no such discussions with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE).

NICE is currently carrying out a routine review of its technology appraisal guidance on the use of donepezil, galantamine, rivastigmine and memantine for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease.

NICE is an independent body. Its guidance is based on a thorough assessment of the available evidence and is developed free from political interference.

Dental Services

Dr Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the role of local dental committees will be in the restructured NHS referred to in his Department's White Paper, "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS". [18229]

Mr Simon Burns: Local dental committees would continue to exist and it is anticipated they would fulfil a similar statutory role under the proposals set out in the White Paper, "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS". Further details will be available at the introduction of the health Bill into Parliament, which will follow later this year.

Departmental Sick Leave

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for how many days on average his Department's staff in each pay grade were absent from work as a result of ill health in 2009-10. [18573]

Mr Simon Burns: The information is as follows:

1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010

Grade	*Average working days lost*
Administrative officer	9.2
Executive officer	6.9
Higher executive officer	5.7
Senior executive officer	4.0
Grade 7	3.7
Grade 6	2.7
SCS	1.6
Overall	4.5

Diseases: EU Action

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department has taken to ensure compliance with the Council Recommendation on European Action in the field of rare diseases adopted on 8 June 2009. [18342]

Mr Simon Burns: Officials in the Department have held meetings with the devolved Administrations and also met with several key stakeholders as part of the development of a plan for rare diseases. The plan will be ready by 2013 in line with the council recommendation.

Epilepsy

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what epilepsy awareness training is provided to paramedics working in the National Health Service. [18689]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department expects the local national health service to have arrangements in place for managing the treatment of all types of seizures, including epilepsy. Epilepsy awareness is a focus throughout ambulance training levels, from those administering basic first aid through to paramedics and staff are expected to act in line with specific clinical guidelines such as those set out in the Joint Royal Colleges Ambulance Liaison Committee's clinical practice guidelines.

A copy of the clinical guidelines is available on the Joint Royal Colleges Ambulance Liaison Committee's website at:

www.jrcalc.org.uk/guidelines.html

General Practitioners: Finance

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 15 September 2010, *Official Report*, columns 1110-11W, on general practitioners: finance, how the formula for the allocation of funding by the NHS Commissioning Board to GP consortiums will take account of levels of need. [18526]

Mr Simon Burns: This will be a matter for the NHS Commissioning Board. However, the Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation will continue to advise the Secretary of State on the equitable distribution of national health service resources during the transition period.

Currently, a weighted capitation formula, based on a programme of statistical and economics research, determines the target allocation for each primary care trust. The formula is made up of several components including an adjustment to reflect differences in the age and morbidity of the population and an adjustment to reflect other factors that affect the need for health care, including a number linked to deprivation such as the proportion of the local population with no qualifications and the numbers claiming pension credit.

Further details about the future allocations process and the distribution of resources will be announced in due course.

General Practitioners: Wales

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with Welsh Assembly Government Ministers on the effect of his proposed reforms to the duties of general practitioners on the terms and conditions of general practitioners in Wales. [18671]

Mr Simon Burns: Departmental officials meet regularly with officials from the devolved Administrations, including in respect of primary medical care contractual arrangements. The most recent meetings were held on 27 and 28 September and included discussions on current and possible future changes to general practitioner contractual arrangements across the four United Kingdom countries.

Health Centres: North Yorkshire

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on external consultants for the building of new health centres in Bentham and Settle in 2009-10. [18931]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department did not spend any money on external consultants for the building of health centres in Bentham and Settle in 2009-10. North Yorkshire and York primary care trust, and the Yorkshire and the Humber Medical Deanery may have done so, but this information is not centrally available.

NHS

Dr Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what arrangements he plans to put in place to ensure effective co-operation between the NHS Commissioning Board and local health and well-being boards. [18231]

Mr Simon Burns: The consultation document, "Liberating the NHS: local democratic legitimacy in health", which has already been placed in the Library, set out how the NHS Commissioning Board might relate to proposed health and well-being boards.

The Government intend to publish further details on its proposals later this year, following the consultation and engagement that has taken place over the summer.

NHS: Pensions

Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the net cash requirement for the NHS pension scheme was in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available; and whether any excess was paid into the Consolidated Fund as income in each year in which the requirement was negative. [18816]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is only available in the form requested after 2002-03. The following table includes data from the most recent seven years on the net cash requirement for the NHS Pension Scheme as well as details of the actual cash paid to the Consolidated Fund.

£000

	Net cash requirement	*Actual cash repaid to the consolidated fund in the financial year*
2009-10	0	1,964,081
2008-09	0	2,063,404
2007-08	0	2,257,971
2006-07	0	2,994,770
2005-06	0	2,068,614
2004-05	0	1,942,371
2003-04	25,000	1,874,969
2002-03	45,750	293,574

Source:
Schedule 1 of the NHS Pension Scheme and NHS Compensation for Premature Retirement Scheme Resource Accounts

Organs: Donors

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the cost to the public purse was of payments to external communications agencies for the purpose of promoting organ donation and the organ donation register in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10; [18347]

(2) how much his Department spent on organ donation communication campaigning in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [18348]

Anne Milton: A public awareness campaign on organ donation was a recommendation of the Organ Donation Taskforce (ODTF) first report "Organs for Transplants" published in January 2008. The Department of Health provided specific funding to NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) to take this recommendation forward.

The amounts paid to external communication agencies for the purpose of promoting organ donation and the organ donation register for 2008-09 and 2009-10 are set out in table 1.

The total amount of money spent by NHSBT on the organ donation communication campaign in 2008-09 and 2009-10 is set out in table 2. The figures in table 2 are for total spend and therefore include the figures set out in table 1. The campaign, launched in November 2009, included television, radio, press, digital advertising, roadshows in major cities and targeted messages to black and minority ethnic (BME) communities as well as campaign evaluation.

Table 1

	Type of agency	*Amount ex VAT (£)*	*Detail*
2008-09	Communications planning	4,250.00	Organ donation taskforce scoping
2009-10	Advertising	433,506.00	Media commission and press production costs
	Communications planning	40,513.00	Media commission
	Public relations	278,121.00	Agency fees
	Agency specialising in targeting black and minority ethnic groups	25,000.00	Agency fees

Table 2

		£
Costs to promote organ donation	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Total	5,160.00	5,634,531.76

Note:
Costs exclude VAT.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures his Department has put in place to prevent epidemics of sexually-transmitted diseases; and if he will make a statement. [19056]

Mr Simon Burns: There are a range of measures in place to control the spread of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and prevent epidemics. These include providing people with information about risks and safer sex and through provision of open access confidential genito-urinary medicine (GUM) clinics. Quick access to GUM services is important to diagnose and reduce the spread of infections. In August 2010, 99.6% of people were offered an appointment to be seen within 48 hours at a GUM clinic. This means that more people are being tested early and having infections detected, preventing onward transmission.

The National Chlamydia Screening Programme (NCSP) aims to control the most prevalent STI, Chlamydia, through opportunistic screening of asymptomatic infections and early detection and treatment, therefore preventing complications and reducing onward transmission. Since the launch of the NCSP, over 3.6 million young people have been tested and over 266,000 have tested positive.

The Health Protection Agency has in place comprehensive surveillance systems that can detect outbreaks as well as monitor trends and inform prevention programmes. The agency also has a lead role locally, regionally and nationally in coordinating investigations and respond to and control of outbreaks/epidemics of STIs such as infectious syphilis and lymphogranuloma venereum.

We know that more needs to be done to ensure all people regardless of age get the right information and advice at the right time to make responsible choices, to increase awareness of risks, to prevent infection, and to access screening and treatment, and we are considering how we can tackle these issues. Later this year we will publish the Public Health White Paper which will set out a cross-government strategy for public health and plans for the new Public Health Service.

Speech and Language Disorders

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether local authorities administer funding provided by his Department for speech and language services on his Department's behalf; and if he will make a statement. [19055]

Anne Milton: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave him on 18 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 580W.

JUSTICE

Departmental Visits Abroad

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department spent on overseas visits for senior officials in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [18406]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice's accounting systems do not differentiate between expenditure by members of the senior civil service and junior officials. It would incur disproportionate costs to examine and investigate every transaction to see which grade of staff it related to.

Medway Secure Training Centre: Restraint Techniques

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 11 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 144W, on the Medway Secure Training

Centre: restraint techniques, how many *(a)* minor and *(b)* serious injuries there were in (i) 2007-08 and (ii) 2008-09. [18339]

Mr Blunt: All secure establishments submit monthly data returns to the Youth Justice Board (YJB) on the number of injuries from restrictive physical interventions (RPI). Data on injuries are reported against common definitions of minor injury requiring medical treatment (which includes cuts, scratches and grazes) and serious injury requiring hospital treatment (which includes fractures and loss of consciousness).

Data have been collected on the injuries arising from RPI from secure establishments since April 2007 and these figures have been provided in the table for Medway Secure Training Centre.

	Minor injury requiring treatment	*Serious injury requiring hospital treatment*
2007-08	67	0
2008-09	38	0

This information has been provided by the YJB. These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and may be subject to change over time.

Offenders: Alcoholic Drinks

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many weeks on average elapsed between the registration of an offender in an offender behaviour programme on *(a)* alcohol or substance abuse and *(b)* domestic violence and the start of the programme in the latest period for which figures are available. [18383]

Mr Blunt: Waiting times for programmes are managed locally by each probation trust and prison. This information is not collated centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost by obtaining information held on offender files or on local data systems, validating it, and then collating it in a common format in order to provide a response.

Offenders: Incentives and Earned Privilege Scheme

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many offenders *(a)* were on the basic level of the incentives and earned privilege scheme and *(b)* have been placed on that level of the scheme following a finding of guilt at adjudication in the last 12 months; [18328]

(2) how many offenders in each prison establishment were on each level of the incentives and earned privilege scheme on the latest date for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement; [18329]

(3) for what types of offence against prison rules an offender may be placed on the basic level of the incentives and earned privilege scheme; and if he will make a statement. [18330]

Mr Blunt: At the end of September 2010, the total number of prisoners on the basic level of the incentives and earned privileges scheme was 1,386. The adjudication process and the incentives and earned privileges scheme are two separate schemes and therefore operate independently of each other. No prisoner can be downgraded simply by an adjudication as this is not one of the punishments available to adjudicators. However, an adjudication could be part of a pattern of behaviour leading to a downgrade and punishments also include forfeiture of any of the privileges available under the incentives and earned privileges scheme. Forfeiture can be for up to 42 days for adult prisoners and 21 days for young offenders.

Data obtained at the end of September 2010 for the three different levels of the incentives and earned privileges scheme at each prison establishment are as follows:

Prison	*Basic*	*Standard*	*Enhanced*
Acklington	7	459	414
Albany	5	243	316
Altcourse	49	682	497
Ashfield	55	199	51
Ashwell	0	38	175
Askham Grange	0	25	101
Aylesbury	19	250	170
Bedford	6	387	94
Belmarsh	22	825	121
Birmingham	4	1,068	357
Blantyre House	0	0	121
Blundeston	3	235	280
Brinsford	9	342	173
Bristol	7	442	139
Brixton	7	612	140
Bronzefield	4	361	128
Buckley Hall	7	115	254
Bullingdon	15	779	260
Bullwood Hall	0	120	107
Bure	4	227	282
Camp Hill	7	222	358
Canterbury	1	173	130
Cardiff	6	627	184
Castington	0	59	23
Channings Wood	6	301	415
Chelmsford	21	491	171
Coldingley	4	168	334
Cookham Wood	18	85	31
Dartmoor	2	221	285
Deerbolt	12	394	86
Doncaster	23	865	212
Dorchester	1	181	39
Dovegate	8	585	557
Downview	2	131	191
Drake Hall	3	78	208
Durham	8	706	206
East Sutton Park	0	0	90
Eastwood Park	4	208	107
Edmunds Hill	6	207	166
Elmley	15	830	329
Erlestoke	2	88	277
Everthorpe	15	262	402

Prison	*Basic*	*Standard*	*Enhanced*
Exeter	9	413	95
Featherstone	12	293	348
Feltham	35	508	121
Ford	0	158	380
Forest Bank	29	942	376
Foston Hall	7	130	101
Frankland	33	319	466
Full Sutton	10	196	373
Garth	7	205	626
Gartree	4	97	569
Glen Parva	42	534	145
Gloucester	2	222	86
Grendon	0	23	503
Guys Marsh	5	262	239
Haverigg	20	174	441
Hewell	6	974	401
High Down	11	815	237
Highpoint	22	402	516
Hindley	20	213	79
Hollesley Bay	2	55	298
Holloway	5	342	111
Holme House	6	798	173
Hull	25	601	352
Kennet	3	96	230
Kingston	0	14	184
Kirkham	0	70	507
Kirklevington	0	231	38
Lancaster	1	120	118
Lancaster Farms	14	325	151
Latchmere House	0	0	202
Leeds	3	791	239
Leicester	10	225	121
Lewes	3	340	118
Leyhill	0	97	415
Lincoln	7	412	182
Lindholme	14	372	602
Littlehey	16	666	407
Liverpool	8	970	246
Long Lartin	7	302	305
Low Newton	5	149	62
Lowdham Grange	15	123	787
Maidstone	0	207	386
Manchester	14	816	342
Moorland—closed	14	483	281
Moorland—open	0	35	213
Morton Hall	1	198	107
Mount	14	264	483
New Hall	18	227	126
North Sea Camp	2	17	293
Northallerton	6	145	42
Norwich	14	576	140
Nottingham	17	835	193
Onley	20	234	437
Parc	20	682	415
Parkhurst	13	171	334
Pentonville	23	908	277
Peterborough—female	5	246	83
Peterborough—male	37	461	109
Portland	12	277	172
Preston	13	581	174
Ranby	13	466	576
Reading	0	132	82
Risley	30	500	557
Rochester	17	444	215
Rye Hill	8	148	442
Send	3	67	204
Shepton Mallet	0	7	178
Shrewsbury	1	178	134
Stafford	3	332	394
Standford Hill	1	83	357
Stocken	15	419	399
Stoke Heath	27	390	152
Styal	5	304	111
Sudbury	3	50	518
Swaleside	26	309	750
Swansea	3	315	106
Swinfen Hall	14	252	354
Thorn Cross	7	87	197
Usk/ Prescoed	0	99	329
Verne	10	171	420
Wakefield	21	392	327
Wandsworth	16	1,252	346
Warren Hill	19	94	62
Wayland	19	499	478
Wealstun	6	331	402
Wellingborough	7	229	279
Werrington	16	64	29
Wetherby	12	220	90
Whatton	3	252	565
Whitemoor	3	151	295
Winchester	5	528	158
Wolds	1	111	278
Woodhill	17	610	170
Wormwood Scrubs	3	1,064	191
Wymott	4	632	519
Total	1,386	46,815	36,202

Prisoners are placed on basic level where they have failed to meet local criteria for admission to standard and enhanced levels. The types of behaviour for which prisoners might, following an incentives and earned privileges scheme review, be placed on basic would include assault, bullying or intimidating behaviour, being in possession of unauthorised drugs or alcohol, non compliance with mandatory drug testing and theft.

Prisons: Racial Hatred

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department has taken to counter racism in establishments on the prison estate. [18327]

Mr Blunt: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) has overseen a sustained programme of work to tackle racism in prisons. The most recent published assessment is contained in "Race Review 2008", and is available from the House Library. The review, overseen by an independent advisory group and described as 'honest and rigorous' by the Equality and Human Rights Commission, concluded that good systems and processes are in place in prisons and that blatant forms of racism have been largely eradicated. However it also concluded that the experiences of black and minority ethnic prisoners and staff have not been transformed and that there remained evidence of differential treatment of black and minority ethnic prisoners. A further programme of work is set out in "Promoting Equality in Prisons and Probation: the NOMS Single Equality Scheme 2009-2012", also available in the Library, and progress on this will be reported in the 2009-10 annual equalities report which will be published later this year.

Probation Officers: Working Hours

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the average proportion of working hours spent by probation officers *(a)* in contact with offenders and *(b)* on administrative tasks in the latest period for which figures are available. [18324]

Mr Blunt: Delivery structures across probation areas vary as do the requirements of specific roles, and the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) does not routinely report on the proportion of working time spent in face to face contact with offenders. In December 2008, NOMS undertook a snapshot survey over a one-week period, based on a small sample of probation officer (PO) and probation service officer (PSO) staff. It reported that across England and Wales 24% of PO/PSO time was spent in direct contact with offenders, 41% was involved in computer activity and 35% of time was spent on non-computer—dealing with correspondence, meetings, travel, etc.

The reporting of the results against only three main headings means that much of the detail is open to interpretation. For example, it could reasonably be argued that time spent on computer activity involving the production of reports and assessments is work on individual cases. Even if only about three-quarters of this time were included as work on cases this gives a picture of more like 54% of time being spent on work with individual offenders.

The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) is taking a number of actions to increase the amount of contact time between probation staff and offenders. These include:

allocating resources to the assessment and management of offenders according to the level of risk;

as part of the Probation Trusts Programme all areas (including locally initiated mergers) have identified efficiencies through for example the reduction in management overheads, and development, of shared services, to the benefit of front-line staffing levels;

a national programme of specifying probation work, and benchmarking performance, to support the effective deployment of front-line staff;

identifying opportunities for reducing bureaucracy and other demands currently placed on front-line staff;

expanding the use of video conferencing to reduce the time probation staff spend travelling to interview prisoners; and

initiating the Offender Engagement Programme to evaluate and improve the quality of face to face work with offenders, its impact on re-offending, and identify and reduce any barriers to that work taking place.

A pilot in Surrey and Sussex Probation Trust to enable the use of professional judgment in deciding how to work most effectively with each individual.

Within the financial constraints placed on all public services NOMS is committed to ensuring that resources continue to be targeted on front-line work.

Probation Service: Offenders

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders have been held under supervision by probation service providers in each of the last five years. [18325]

Mr Blunt The following table shows the total case load of offenders supervised by the probation service as at 31 December in each of the last five years.

Probation service case load, England and Wales, 2005-09

	Total
2005	224,094
2006	235,029
2007	242,722
2008	243,434
2009	241,504

Note:
Includes those supervised on court orders as well as post-release supervision.

The data within the table are taken from table 1.2 of the publication "Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2009" and can be found at the website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonandprobation.htm

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Terrorism: Compensation

Mr Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many of those seriously injured in the 7/7 attacks in London are still awaiting compensation; and if he will make a statement. [18611]

Mr Djanogly: The vast majority of cases lodged with the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority have been settled. It received 650 claims for compensation in the years following the London bombings, and is working to finalise five remaining cases. CICA has made interim payments in all the outstanding cases.

Women's Prisons

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* capacity and *(b)* population of the women's prison estate was (i) on the most recent date for which figures are available and (ii) in each of the last five years. [18326]

Mr Blunt: The following table shows the capacity and population of the women's prison estate as at (i) end of August 2010 (the most recent figures available) and (ii) end of August in each of the last five years.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Total operational capacity and population of the female prison estate, England, as at August of each year

	Operational capacity	*Population*
2005	5,429	4,592
2006	4,846	4,559
2007	4,889	4,408
2008	4,756	4,430
2009	4,822	4,256
2010	4,849	4,257

Note:

There are no female prisons in Wales.

Young Offenders: Reoffenders

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of young offenders re-offended within one year of being released from custody in the latest period for which figures are available. [18320]

Mr Blunt: The latest reoffending rate for young people (those aged between 10 and 17) released from custody in England and Wales in the first quarter of 2008 is 74.3%.

Reoffending rates for young people are based on whether an offender has been convicted at court or received an out-of-court disposal for an offence in the year following release from custody.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Arts: Industry

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of *(a)* the role of and *(b)* the likely effect on the creative industries of proposals to rebalance the economy (i) in favour of industry and (ii) outside London. [17969]

Mr Vaizey: The creative industries have been an increasingly important part of the economy in recent years and we are committed to enabling the sector to maximise its future growth potential, across the whole of the UK in the coming years.

Better Regulation Executive

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the appropriateness of the mandate of the Better Regulation Executive. [18916]

Mr Prisk: A key tenet of the Government's Coalition agreement is to move away from rules and regulations to changes people's behaviour to policy approaches that support and enable people to make better choices for themselves. And we have introduced an ambitious programme of regulatory reform to make that a reality in regulation making.

There is no more appropriate part of Whitehall with more skills and experience in regulation policy than the Better Regulation Executive. It has extensive and deep understanding of the regulatory landscape and is firmly re-focussed on developing new policies to deliver the Government's objectives on regulation. I judge that BRE is appropriate to lead the Government effort.

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many staff work in the Better Regulation Executive. [18917]

Mr Prisk: As at 20 October there were 79 staff working in the Better Regulation Executive. Of those, eight were working for the Secretariat to the Regulatory Policy Committee and two were on maternity leave.

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many staff in the Better Regulation Executive have managed a small business of under 10 employees. [18918]

Mr Prisk: This information is not held centrally, however at least 10 staff in the Better Regulation Executive indicated that they had managed a small business with less than 10 staff when asked on 20 October 2010.

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what short-term measures the Better Regulation Executive has considered to reduce the regulatory burden on small businesses. [18919]

Mr Prisk: The BRE is working with Departments to identify regulation which is overly burdensome, particularly on small businesses, and support policy makers in using non-regulatory approaches.

We sought suggestions from SMEs and members of the public on regulations to repeal or amend through the 'Your Freedom' website and are currently working through the 2,500 responses. The BRE is also undertaking a series of regional visits, speaking to SMEs all over the country to further identify ways to improve the business environment.

The Government introduced the 'One-in, One-out' rule last month. This means that no new regulations which impose costs on business or civil society organisations can be brought in without regulation of an equivalent value being removed. This is a significant step in stemming the flow of regulation and will focus Whitehall's attention on finding alternatives to regulation. The BRE will manage and support this cross-Government programme.

This Department has also announced a series of measures to help SMEs, which include:

Extended the Enterprise Finance Guarantee (EFG) by £200 million at June's Budget, benefiting around 2,000 extra small businesses. We have also announced two new capital funds for SMEs with growth potential, and will shortly respond to the recent Green Paper on the future of business finance.

A rise in entrepreneurs' relief lifetime limit from £2 million to £5 million, and a reduction in small profits rate (small companies' rate) from 21% to 20%.

Changes to national insurance contributions (NIC), raising the employers' threshold to increase the number of employees for whom employers pay no NICs by 650,000 and introducing a regional employer NIC holiday to encourage new businesses in selected regions to take on employees.

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many staff of the Better Regulation Executive work in other Government Departments. [18920]

Mr Prisk: There are currently no Better Regulation Executive staff working in other Government Departments. However, Better Regulation Executive staff are working in partnership with staff in better regulation units and policy staff in other Government Departments.

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the cost to the public purse of *(a)* the Better Regulation Executive and *(b)* the Better Regulation Strategy Group was in the last 12 months. [18921]

Mr Prisk: The cost to the public purse of the Better Regulation Executive in the financial year 2009-10 was £6.4 million. This figure includes the operating costs of the Regulatory Policy Committee Secretariat.

The Better Regulation Strategy Group has not incurred any costs to the public purse to date.

Better Regulation Strategy Group

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the name is of each member to join the Better Regulation Strategy Group since his appointment. [18913]

Mr Prisk: One member has joined the Better Regulation Strategy Group (BRSG) since my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) was appointed. This member is Peter Schofield, director of HM Treasury's enterprise and growth unit. Mr Schofield was invited to join the BRSG on 5 October and accepted this invitation on 13 October.

Other current members of the BRSG are listed as follows. These were all members of the group before my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State was appointed but have been confirmed as ongoing members of the BRSG since his appointment.

John Cridland (deputy director-general, Confederation of British Industry)

Robert Devereux (permanent secretary, Department for Transport)

Julia Evans (chief executive, National Federation of Builders)

Iain Ferguson (chair, Wilton Park)

Dame Deirdre Hutton (chair, Civil Aviation Authority)

Sir Philip Hampton (chair, board of the Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc)

Scott Johnson (partner, WF Watt Contracts)

Lucy Neville-Rolfe (executive director, corporate and legal affairs, Tesco)

Philip Rycroft (chief executive, Better Regulation Executive)

Sarah Veale (head of equality and employment rights department, Trade Union Congress)

Kerrie Kelly, former director general of the Association of British Insurers (ABI), was a member of the strategy group until she stood down from her position at the ABI in July.

Information on the Better Regulation Strategy Group, including minutes from previous meetings, is available via the following website:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/better-regulation/better-regulation-executive/better-regulation-strategy-group

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills *(a)* how many and *(b)* what proportion of members of the Better Regulation Strategy Group (i) manage a small business of fewer than 10 people and (ii) are based in the North of England. [18914]

Mr Prisk: Two members of the Better Regulation Strategy Group (BRSG) have confirmed that they manage a small business of fewer than 10 people. One member of the BRSG has confirmed that they are based in the North of England. A further one member has confirmed that they are based in Scotland. The BRSG has 12 members.

Business: Females

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has made a recent estimate of the number of small and medium-sized enterprises run by women *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in the West Midlands. [18447]

Mr Prisk: The latest estimate of the number of small and medium-sized enterprises run by women was made in 2009, based on survey evidence and statistics published by BIS.

BIS estimates that there are approximately 710,000 majority women-led small and medium-sized enterprises in the UK (15% of the UK SME population) and approximately 45,000 majority women-led small and medium-sized enterprises in the West Midlands (12% of the West Midlands SME population). This is based on data collected over the period 2005-08.

This estimate will be updated in early 2011, following the publication of the BIS "Small Business Survey 2010".

Business: Higher Education

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if his Department will take steps to *(a)* improve the quality of and *(b)* increase provision for enterprise education in colleges and universities; and if he will make a statement. [18818]

Mr Prisk: Enterprise has a key role in achieving the Government's goals of social mobility and economic rebalancing, and the foundations for an enterprising society will be laid in our schools, colleges and universities. This Department has brought together a forum of entrepreneurs, educators and sector representatives to build a consensus on how best learning institutions might further improve and promote enterprise education. In collaboration with the National Enterprise Academy, the National Council for Graduate Entrepreneurship, the Association of Colleges and other enterprise education providers and intermediaries, we will be building on the forum's work to ensure the opportunities to develop enterprise and entrepreneurial skills, including those needed for self-employment, are supported and promoted throughout education.

Businesses: Finance

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on access to finance for businesses. [18288]

Mr Davey *[holding answer 21 October 2010]:* I have had many discussions with the Chancellor of the Exchequer regarding access to finance for business as part of our ongoing work in this area, and relating to the Green Paper on access to business finance that was published and consulted on collaboratively by our two Departments.

Community Interest Companies

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many community interest companies were started in *(a)* Gateshead constituency, *(b)* Tyne and Wear, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each of the last five years. [19048]

Mr Davey: According to the national website for the regulator for community interest companies, the number of CIC registered companies is as follows:

Location	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*	*Total*
(a) Gateshead	0	3	4	6	3	2	18
(b) Tyne and Wear	1	26	24	35	38	57	181
(c) North East	1	34	42	59	72	91	299
(d) England	46	840	506	712	1,123	1,185	4,412

Source:
Statistics from:
http://www.cicregulator.gov.uk/
as at 21 October 2010.

Departmental Responsibilities

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on the responsibilities of the Minister of State for Trade and Investment. [16912]

Mr Prisk: The new Minister of State for Trade and Investment's responsibilities are a matter for the Prime Minister.

Departmental Visits Abroad

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department spent on overseas visits for senior officials in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [18418]

Mr Davey: During the period October 2009 to September 2010, the Department spent £75,836 on overseas visits for senior officials (director generals and permanent secretary).

Higher Education: Gateshead

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many young people resident in Gateshead constituency entered *(a)* higher education and *(b)* university in each of the last 13 years. [19049]

Mr Willetts: The latest available information from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) is shown in the following table. Changes made to constituency names and boundaries in 2010 will be initially applied to HESA data for the 2010/11 academic year. Data for these students will not be available until January 2011. Until then, data based on the old constituencies will continue to be provided. Therefore, this answer uses figures for Gateshead East and Washington West and Tyne Bridge constituencies.

Comparable information on entrants to higher education courses at further education colleges is not available. Figures for the 2009/10 academic year will be available in January 2011.

Young[1] undergraduate entrants from Gateshead East and Washington West constituency and Tyne Bridge constituency[2]

UK Higher Education Institutions[3] academic years 1996/97 to 2008/09

Academic year	*Gateshead East and Washington West*	*Tyne Bridge*
1996/97	270	115
1997/98	305	140
1998/99	310	180
1999/2000	290	170
2000/01	305	185
2001/02	330	200
2002/03	290	150
2003/04	305	175
2004/05	325	185
2005/06	330	200
2006/07	355	210
2007/08	400	215
2008/09	345	205

[1] Covers entrants aged under 21.

[2] Exclude entrants whose parliamentary constituency cannot be established due to missing or invalid postcode information.

[3] Excludes the Open University due to inconsistencies in their coding of entrants across the time series.

Note:
Figures are based on a snapshot as at 1 December and have been rounded to the nearest five.

Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Internet Governance Forum

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which Government representatives attended the fifth annual Internet Governance Forum meeting; and what the outcome was of discussions on each item of the agenda of that meeting. [17068]

Mr Vaizey: The UK Government were represented at the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) in Vilnius by Dr Sue Baxter, Deputy Director, Europe and International Competitiveness Unit, and one other BIS official with responsibility for internet governance policy.

The overall theme of the Vilnius IGF was 'IGF 2010—Developing the Future Together' with five main sessions which effectively formed the 'agenda' of the meeting:

- managing the internet's critical infrastructure;
- security, openness and privacy;
- access and diversity;
- development; and
- cloud computing.

Preparatory discussions were undertaken in 113 workshops, best practice forums, dynamic coalition meetings and open forums. The Chairman's summary of the full range of issues discussed is accessible at:

http://intgovforum.org/cms/2010/Chairman's.Summary.Expanded.pdf

The IGF is not a negotiating forum so there are no formal outcomes as such. However, it is clear from the sustained level of support from stakeholders—over 1,450 attendees including representatives from over 90 governments, business experts, civil society representatives, academics, technical experts and parliamentarians, with an additional 600 participating remotely—that the IGF plays an important role in enabling stakeholders to exchange views and best practice on internet public policy.

In particular, the UK Government showcased their policy approach on internet inclusion and an online child protection 'toolkit' developed for those Commonwealth members with little or no legal framework for criminalising access to and distribution of child abuse images.

The UK also held confidential bilateral meetings with Brazil, China and the USA on internet public policy issues and the decision on the future of the IGF to be taken by the UN General Assembly in December.

Local Economic Partnerships

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the oral answer of 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 487, on local economic partnerships, what the scope of the sub-regional White Paper will be; and whether it will include the role of local enterprise partnerships in relation to the management of the European regional development fund programme. [18867]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 21 October 2010]:* The sub-regional White Paper will set out the Government's approach to economic development following abolition of the regional development agencies, including the approach to management of the European regional development fund programme.

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the oral answer of 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 487, on local economic partnerships, what discussions *(a)* ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have had with the Department for Communities and Local Government on the content of the sub-regional White Paper. [18868]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 21 October 2010]:* All Departments and Ministers with an interest in the sub-regional White Paper, including the Department for Communities and Local Government, have been involved in discussions regarding its content.

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the oral answer of 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 487, on local economic partnerships, when he expects to publish the sub-regional White Paper. [18869]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 21 October 2010]:* We expect the sub-regional White Paper will be published shortly.

Manufacturing Industries: Government Assistance

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking together with the Chancellor of the Exchequer to assist manufacturing industries. [18531]

Mr Prisk: The Government are supporting manufacturing industries by creating a stable business environment that will give businesses the confidence they need to plan and invest for the future. We are doing this by creating a more supportive tax environment, freeing up credit through the banking system, reducing regulation, maximising the flexibility of the labour market and focusing on training and apprenticeships. For example, we have already redirected £150 million to create up to 50,000 extra apprenticeships, which will be workplace-based and employer-led. The Government announced in the spending review that they will invest up to £200 million to support manufacturing and business development focusing on high growth business and innovation particularly among small and medium sized businesses.

Later in the year we will be launching a new approach to manufacturing that will highlight key ambitions, identify growth opportunities and set out a new framework of actions for both Government and industry.

Motor Vehicles: Government Assistance

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many vehicles purchased under the vehicle scrappage scheme were manufactured in the UK. [18653]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 21 October 2010]:* Although the scheme is now closed for new applications, transactions are still being processed and so the information requested is not currently available. Once final figures are available, further analysis of the data will also be required because certain vehicle models are both imported and manufactured in the UK.

Overseas Trade: Philippines

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he made of the contribution to the gross domestic product of trade with the Philippines in each of the last two years; whether he has had recent discussions with the government of the Philippines on trade; and if he will make a statement. [17334]

Mr Prisk: The benefits of international trade to gross domestic product (GDP) result from greater economic efficiency due to a combination of increased competition in markets, comparative advantages, economies of scale, increased opportunities for learning, and greater incentives for innovation. Due to the difficulty of differentiating between the impact of trade and other factors on growth, it is not possible to quantify precisely the impact of trade with another country on GDP.

The following table indicates the scale of UK trade in goods and services to the Philippines for the years 2008 and 2009 as a proportion of GDP:

	UK exports to the Philippines: percentage of UK GDP at market prices	*UK imports from the Philippines: percentage of UK GDP at market prices*
2008	0.03	0.06
2009	0.03	0.04

I have not held recent discussions with the Philippine Government. However, the Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office responsible for South East Asia, held bilateral discussions with the Philippine Government when he visited the country between 20-22 July 2010. He called on the President of the Philippines and met key Cabinet Ministers and business leaders. The main objective of his visit was to strengthen trade and investment links between the UK and the Philippines.

Regional Development Agencies: Assets

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assets of regional development agencies are *(a)* listed buildings, *(b)* in conservation areas, *(c)* in areas of outstanding natural beauty, *(d)* in sites of specific scientific interest and *(e)* in national parks. [15807]

Mr Prisk: The information is not held centrally in the format requested, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

South East England Development Agency

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the savings to accrue to the public purse from the abolition of the South East England Development Agency. [19085]

Mr Prisk: It is not possible at present to estimate the savings or costs arising from RDA closure. The work will be undertaken in a way that seeks to protect taxpayers' interests.

Students: Disadvantaged

Mr Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the Oral Statement of 18 October, *Official Report*, column 629, on education policy, on what the £150 million of pupil premium allocated to enabling students from disadvantaged backgrounds to enter higher education will be spent; under what budgetary heading such expenditure will be incurred; and if he will make a statement. [19100]

Mr Willetts: The Government are making funding available for a new national scholarship scheme. This is a separate stream of funding to the pupil premium and will have its own budgetary heading.

We have no preconceived ideas about the shape of the scheme, except that it will be fair, affordable, and will make a real difference to some of the poorest students. Further information will be made available as the scheme is developed.

Students: Loans

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the resource accounting and budgeting (RAB) charge on student loans is; and if he will estimate the likely RAB charge consequent on the implementation of the proposals of the Independent Review of Higher Education and Student Finance. [18656]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 21 October 2010]:* The total amount of income contingent repayment loans issued to English domiciled students studying in the UK and EU domiciled students studying in England in financial year 2009-10 was £5,049 million. The increase in interest and write-off subsidies during 2009-10 was £1,361 million.

The RAB charge for 2011-12 and future years will depend on the outcome of the comprehensive spending review which the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced on 20 October, and on the response to the Browne review of higher education and student finance. This is a substantial report and we shall consult further on some of the more detailed proposals before making specific recommendations to Parliament, with a view to implementing the changes for students entering higher education in autumn 2012.

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effect on funding for student support of any changes to resource accounting and budgeting charges on student loans consequent on implementation of the proposals in the Browne review of higher education funding. [19212]

Mr Willetts: The RAB charge and student support funding for 2011-12 and future years will depend on the outcome of the comprehensive spending review which the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced on 20 October, and on the response to the Browne review of higher education and student finance. This is a substantial report and we shall consult further on some of the more detailed proposals before making specific recommendations to Parliament, with a view to implementing the changes for students entering higher education in autumn 2012.

Summer Time

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with the Scottish Executive on proposals for the introduction of single and double summer time. [18322]

Mr Davey: I have not taken part in any recent discussions with the Scottish Executive on proposals for the introduction of single double summer time. However, recent official level discussions have confirmed that the Scottish Government remain opposed to any change to the current arrangement.

Telephone Services: Fraud

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to encourage telecommunications providers to prevent dial-through fraud. [18200]

Mr Vaizey: Fraud is an offence which the Government take very seriously. Dial-through fraud (DTF) occurs when hackers gain access to a PBX voicemail system or VoIP network and then exploit its vulnerabilities to make national and international calls at a company's expense. According to the Telecommunications United Kingdom Fraud Forum (TUFF) membership survey in 2009, communications and service providers reported that 98% of businesses that were hit by hackers also suffered from DTF.

In February 2010, TUFF and BT Wholesale issued a 16 point plan that companies can adopt to prevent DTF and protect their assets.

Fraud arising from unauthorised access to dial-through functions can be exacerbated by non-existent or ineffective access security measures to protect against unauthorised access to on-site or remote maintenance functions. The unauthorised reconfiguration of, or access to system information, can facilitate unauthorised access to dial-through functions. Should companies suspect that they have experienced DTF, they should take the appropriate steps to make their systems as secure as possible.

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent estimate he has made of the annual cost to businesses of dial-through fraud. [18201]

Mr Vaizey: This Department has made no such estimate. The Telecommunications United Kingdom Fraud Forum (TUFF) surveyed its members in 2009, and found that 98% of businesses that were hit by hackers also suffered losses through dial through fraud.

Telephone Services: Missing Persons

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what progress his Department is making on the implementation of his Department's proposals on *(a)* the 116 000 number and *(b)* missing people's existing helpline numbers; and if he will make a statement. [17667]

Mr Vaizey: Reservation and assignment of the 116 000 number and all other reserved numbers in the 116 numbering range is a matter for the regulator Ofcom. In allocating interested service providers to numbers Ofcom is guided by an advisory committee established under the Contact Council and now co-ordinated by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

116 000 was the inaugural and only number established at the time of the original European Commission Decision (2007/116/EC). Ofcom launched a comparative selection process to identify a service provider for the "Hotline for Missing Children" in February 2009. As a result 116 000 was allocated to the charity Missing People and its chosen communications provider BT on 17 May 2010. 116 000 is now operational alongside Missing People's existing numbers.

Low key promotion of the 116 000 number will commence in November 2010 at selected UK entry points. Pan-European marketing material provided by Missing Children Europe will be used. Operational readiness will then be assessed, leading to a high profile launch of 116 000 in April 2012. At that point, 116 000 will become Missing People's prime contact number, replacing the promotion of the existing three helpline numbers.

UK Intellectual Property Office: Internet

Mr Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) on how many occasions and for what periods the website of the Intellectual Property Office has been unresponsive as a result of denial of service attacks in the last three years; [18672]

(2) what reports he has received on the denial of service attacks on the Intellectual Property Office's website on 16 October 2010; and if he will make a statement; [18673]

(3) what reports he has received on denial of service attacks undertaken on websites carried out under the banner of Operation Payback; and if he will make a statement. [18674]

Mr Vaizey: This Department was approached by one private sector company that was suffering a denial of service attack attributed to Operation Payback. Officials advised that company where to seek advice and to report the attack to the police. In the past week this Department has been working with the Intellectual Property Office (IPO) on the similar attack on its website. This is the first time in the last three years that the Intellectual Property Office website has been unresponsive as a result of denial of service attacks. The IPO has taken advice from experts within Government and its service has now been restored. The Government clearly abhor this sort of direct action and the impact it has on businesses consumers and citizens who rely on access to Government websites for the delivery of important services, and call on those taking part to behave responsibly. The question as to whether this can be regarded as a criminal act is a matter for the appropriate authorities.

Yorkshire Forward

Mr Ward: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what process his Department has put in place for disposing of the assets of Yorkshire Forward; and when his Department expects to determine the future ownership of *(a)* the Odeon site and car park, Princes Way, Bradford, *(b)* the former Bradford Business and Innovation Centre, *(c)* the former police headquarters at The Tyres, Bradford, *(d)* land at the former Furniture City warehouse site at Valley Road, Bradford and *(e)* land at 2-16 Great Horton Road, Bradford. [18827]

Mr Prisk: BIS is working with the RDAs and other Departments to develop plans for disposal or transfer of assets and liabilities. These will be based on the existing statutory framework until new legislation comes into force, alongside the guidance in Managing Public Money. These principles will govern Yorkshire Forward's own closure plans covering the period up to March

2012, including disposal of assets in Bradford. No decision has yet been made on any specific asset and no dates have been set for the transfer or disposal of specific assets and liabilities.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Visits Abroad

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department spent on overseas visits for senior officials in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [18405]

Mr Paterson: Information reflecting the Department as it is now configured, following the completion of devolution, is not available for the period before 12 April 2010.

For the period from 12 April to 30 September 2010, my Department has spent £4,810 on travel by senior civil servants in support of an official visit that I undertook to America.

All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Departmental Contracts

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what contracts his Department has awarded to voluntary sector organisations in the last two years; and what the monetary value was of each such contract. [17606]

Gregory Barker *[holding answer 18 October 2010]*: The Department of Energy and Climate Change was formed on 3 October 2008. The Department did not award any contracts to voluntary organisations during the financial year 2008-09.

Contracts awarded by the Department during the financial year 2009-10 to such organisations are as follows:

Voluntary organisation	*Amount paid (£)*
Action for a Global Climate Community Ltd.	8,000.00
Barnardo's	56,226.00
Keep Britain Tidy	40,000.00
National Energy Action	1,209,969.25
The London Wildlife Trust	1,130.00
The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)	50,000.00

Fuel Poverty: North East

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate he has made of the number and proportion of households in *(a)* Gateshead constituency, *(b)* Tyne and Wear and *(c)* the North East in fuel poverty. [19175]

Gregory Barker: In 2006, the most recent year for which sub-regional figures are available, there were around 4,800 (14%) fuel poor households in the Gateshead East and Washington West constituency and 75,600 (16%) fuel poor households in the county of Tyne and Wear. Gateshead East and Washington West was replaced by the constituency of Gateshead and the constituency of Washington and Sunderland West in 2010.

In 2008, there were 236,000 (21%) fuel poor households in the North East.

Heat Pumps

Mr Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his most recent estimate is of the proportion of installed heat pumps which fail to meet the required EU standard on coefficient of performance. [18514]

Gregory Barker: The EU standard, given in Annex VII of Directive 2009/28/EC, is based on the total useable heat delivered, the average seasonal performance factor and the efficiency of electrical generation. As the Commission has yet to establish how member states are to estimate these factors it is not possible to estimate the proportion of installed heat pumps that will fail to meet that standard.

Interim results from recent field trials show there is a significant range of domestic heat pump performance, from good to disappointing. Some of the reasons for poor performance are understood and others are being investigated in these ongoing trials. This information should help us to estimate the proportion that may fail to meet the required standard—once the standard has been established.

Human Rights

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department and its non-departmental public bodies of compliance with *(a)* domestic, *(b)* European and *(c)* other international human rights requirements in each year since the Department's inception; and if he will make a statement. [18791]

Gregory Barker: The Department of Energy and Climate Change does not collate information on the costs of compliance with human rights requirements. Where relevant, the Department takes account of the domestic and international human rights framework in developing all its policies and practices, as it does other relevant legal obligations; an accurate estimate of the total cost of compliance with human rights obligations could not be made without incurring disproportionate cost.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Capita

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many contracts his Department has with Capita; and how much it has paid to Capita under such contracts in 2010-11 to date. [18623]

Robert Neill: The Department has only one contract with Capita and the total spend to date in this financial year is £1,296,145. This contract was awarded in December 2009 to establish a managed service for the recruitment of all specialist contractors and interim managers (including finance, IT, HR, PPM, procurement, communications and other niche requirements). Spending for 2008-09 and 2009-10 can be found online on my Department's website as part of our initiative to open up Government spending over £500.

Departmental Pay

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was paid to officials in his Department and its non-departmental public bodies in bonuses and other payments in addition to salary in each year since 1997; how many officials received such payments; and what the monetary value was of the largest 20 payments made in each such year. [18737]

Robert Neill: The Department for Communities and Local Government was created in 2006. The following table shows the amount paid in bonuses and the number of staff who received them in the main Department since that date.

	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Number of staff	478	391	570	587
Bonuses (£)	838,250	1,018,350	1,284,549	1,188,133

The largest 20 bonus payments in these years are shown in the following table (in £5,000 increments):

Bonus size	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
£5,000-£10,000	37	56	54	63
£10,001-£15,000	4	37	34	34
£15,001-£20,000	0	9	2	0
£20,001-£30,000	1	3	1	0

The following table shows the amounts paid in other payments in addition to salary in each year since 2006 although there is a disproportionate cost involved in identifying the numbers of staff who received them.

	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Allowances (£)	514,000	569,000	522,000	674,000

The allowances paid are under review.

Departmental Sick Leave

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for how many days on average his Department's staff in each pay grade were absent from work as a result of ill health in 2009-10. [18566]

Robert Neill: The following table outlines the average working days lost by CLG staff in each pay grade as a result of ill-health in 2009-10.

Grade equivalent	*Average working days lost*
AA/AO	12.5
EO	6.8
HEO	4.2
SEO	5.1
G7	3.1
G6	1.7
SCS	1.0

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many days his Department has lost to staff sickness in each year since 1997; and what estimate he made of the cost to his Department of sickness absence in each such year. [18740]

Robert Neill: The Department for Communities and Local Government was formed in May 2006 and the following table details the days lost to staff sickness in the Main Department in each financial year since that date, with estimated costs.

Financial year	*Working days absence*	*Estimated cost (£000)*
2006-07	13,366	1,196
2007-08	15,090	1,393
2008-09	13,335	1,323
2009-10	12,378	1,191
2010[1]	6,689	646

[1] To 30 September.

Departmental Visits Abroad

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department spent on overseas visits for senior officials in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [18417]

Robert Neill: For the period 1 October 2009 to 30 September 2010 the Department spent £166,520 on overseas visits.

Identifying what was spent solely by senior staff could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Fire Services: Finance

Conor Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much funding was allocated to each fire authority for the financial year *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 1996-97; [19068]

(2) how much funding per head of population was allocated to the Dorset Fire Authority for the financial year *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 1996-97. [19069]

Robert Neill: Formula grant allocated to each single service fire and rescue authority in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 1996-97 is shown in the following table.

In 1996-97, only metropolitan fire and rescue authorities were in existence. In shire areas, county councils had the responsibility for providing this service as well as providing other services such as education and social services. It is not possible to identify how much was allocated for fire for those authorities.

Fire and rescue authority	*Formula Grant in 1996-97[1] (£ million)*	*Formula Grant in 2010-11[2] (£ million)*
London Fire/GLA fire	204.722	259.574
Greater Manchester FRA	58.340	75.335
Merseyside FRA	39.122	46.305
South Yorkshire FRA	25.153	36.770
Tyne and Wear FRA	30.608	35.570
West Midlands FRA	56.240	80.813
West Yorkshire FRA	44.562	57.490
Avon FRA	n/a	24.879
Bedfordshire FRA	n/a	11.386
Berkshire FRA	n/a	15.423
Buckinghamshire FRA	n/a	11.452
Cambridgeshire FRA	n/a	14.443
Cheshire FRA	n/a	18.621
Cleveland FRA	n/a	22.382
Derbyshire FRA	n/a	19.674
Devon and Somerset FRA	n/a	31.245
Dorset FRA	n/a	11.001
Durham FRA	n/a	14.529
East Sussex FRA	n/a	14.673
Essex FRA	n/a	32.371
Hampshire FRA	n/a	29.266
Hereford and Worcester FRA	n/a	10.668
Humberside FRA	n/a	27.174
Kent FRA	n/a	29.596
Lancashire FRA	n/a	32.608
Leicestershire FRA	n/a	18.840
North Yorkshire FRA	n/a	12.968
Nottinghamshire FRA	n/a	25.010
Shropshire FRA	n/a	8.268
Staffordshire FRA	n/a	18.600
Wiltshire FRA	n/a	9.587

[1] In 1996-97, formula grant comprises revenue support grant, redistributed business rates, principal formula police grant, SSA reduction grant (SSA review), SSA reduction grant (police funding review) where appropriate.

[2] In 2010-11, formula grant comprises revenue support grant, redistributed business rates and principal formula police grant where appropriate.

As formula grant reflects changes in funding and functions, a comparison between the two years will not be on a like-for-like basis.

Dorset Fire and Rescue Authority received formula grant of £15.43 per head in 2010-11. There is no figure for 1996-97 as the authority did not exist. The per head figure has been calculated using the main measure of population used in settlement, i.e. the revised 2004-based sub-national population projection for 2010.

Housing: Immigrants

Mr Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his Department's most recent assessment is of the effects on housing demand of immigration; what equivalent assessments his Department has made since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [19099]

Andrew Stunell: The potential future demand for housing can be informed by CLG's household projections. The latest projections were published on the CLG website in March 2009:

> http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/2031households0309

and are based on the 2006-based population projections produced by the Office for National Statistics. They provide a long-term view of the net growth in the number of households given a projected population and previous demographic trends. As such the household projections do not take into account changes in policy or economic circumstances that may have a material effect on future household formation and do not explicitly reflect the different tenure pattern and household formation of migrant groups. The household projections reflect a net position; the number of newly forming households net of those that dissolve. Using the zero net migration population variant it is estimated that net international migration could account, on average, for 40% of the net growth in households in England over the projection period from 2006 to 2031.

However, this does not directly equate to the actual effective demand for housing. This will also be determined by factors such as the ability of individual households to meet the cost of housing which is in turn influenced by the wider economic context. These projections also do not take into account the 2008-based population projections, subsequently published by the ONS, which include lower projected levels of net international migration. CLG expect to publish 2008-based household projections in November 2010.

Equivalent assessments were made for the household projections from a 2003-base and 2004-base. Using the zero net migration population variant in the 2004-based projections it was estimated that net international migration could account, on average, for around a third of the net growth in households in England to 2026. The equivalent estimate in the 2003-based projections was that net international migration accounted for around a quarter of household growth from 2003 to 2026.

Local Government: Sponsorship

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department makes available to local authorities on attracting sponsorship from local businesses to support their services; and what plans he has for the future of arrangements for such sponsorship. [18438]

Robert Neill: The Department does not publish guidance on attracting sponsorships. Councils ought to consider opportunities to raise income, including sponsorship, to protect valued local services and keep council tax bills down; decisions on these matters are rightly for individual local authorities to take.

Mayors: Referendums

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what estimate he has made of the cost of holding confirmatory referendums on directly-elected mayors in each of the 12 largest cities in England; [18644]

(2) whether he plans to provide funds for the holding of confirmatory referendums on directly-elected mayors in the 12 largest cities in England. [18645]

Robert Neill: Issues relating to the implementation of the coalition agreement commitment to create directly elected mayors in the 12 largest English cities, subject to confirmatory referendums and full scrutiny by elected councillors, will be addressed when the localism Bill is presented to Parliament.

Non-domestic Rates: Empty Property

Paul Uppal: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will reinstate business rate relief for empty properties by 2015. [19002]

Robert Neill: We appreciate the problems caused by the last Government's increases in the burden of empty property rates, especially given the fact they were imposed at a time when firms faced significant difficulties in renting out empty property. The new Government's ability to take action on this matter is restricted by the high costs—the last Government estimated that the change would increase net tax yield by £950 million in 2008-09. As a result, any action will need to be balanced against the overriding need to reduce public expenditure and support the economy generally by reducing the deficit. However, we keep all taxes under review, including this specific issue. We recognise the burden of business rates on local firms, and we have already taken action to increase small business rate relief and scrap the unfair 'ports tax' on firms which threatened to inflict significant harm on Britain's manufacturing sector.

Parish Councils

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department has issued on the conduct of its review of parish boundaries. [18934]

Robert Neill: The Department has published Guidance on Community Governance Reviews jointly with the Local Government Boundary Commission for England to assist principal councils when undertaking parish boundary reviews. The guidance can be seen at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/guidancecommunitygovernance2010#

Planning

Kris Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has to give local councils and neighbourhoods more powers to take decisions on planning; and if he will make a statement. [18538]

Robert Neill: The coalition Government is committed to a radical reform of the planning system to give neighbourhoods far more ability to determine the shape of the places in which their inhabitants live, based on the principles set out in the Conservative Party publication, "Open Source Planning".

We have already made a good start on returning power to local authorities by scrapping regional strategies and their centrally imposed building targets and scrapping housing density targets. Our action on re-designating back gardens and abolishing the unaccountable Infrastructure Planning Commission also means more control for the local level.

Further proposals to decentralise planning back to local authorities and neighbourhoods will be set out in the localism Bill.

Planning Inspectorate

Kris Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he intends to review the *(a)* role, *(b)* responsibilities and *(c)* powers of the Planning Inspectorate; and if he will make a statement. [18539]

Robert Neill: There are no proposals to review the Planning Inspectorate in addition to those already announced. My hon. Friend will be aware that on 29 June 2010 the Minister for Decentralisation confirmed that the Infrastructure Planning Commission would be abolished and replaced with a Major Infrastructure Planning Unit, to be established in the Planning Inspectorate, to continue fast tracking major infrastructure projects. This is in line with the coalition agreement. It will affect the role and responsibilities of the Planning Inspectorate, but the details are yet to be finalised.

Social Rented Housing: Immigrants

Mr Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of the new *(a)* local authority social lettings and *(b)* registered social landlord lettings were made to foreign nationals from (i) A8 countries and Romania and Bulgaria, (ii) other EU member states and (iii) non-EU member states in 2009-10; and what the equivalent figures were for each of the last 30 years. [19097]

Andrew Stunell: Figures for the 2009-10 financial year are not yet available but will be published on the Communities and Local Government website in December 2010 in table 754, which can be accessed at the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/rentslettings/livetables/

Information on the number of foreign national households receiving social housing is collected through the Continuous Recording of Letting form (CORE). Historically CORE has only collected information from registered social landlords, though a number of local authorities are now also providing information through this process.

A question on nationality was first introduced to the form for the 2006-07 data collection period. For historical data, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 27 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 1048W.

Mr Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his most recent estimate is of the number of households in social housing headed by a foreign national; what proportion this represents of all households in social housing; and what the equivalent figures were in each year since 1997. [19098]

Andrew Stunell: Data on the nationality of householders have only been collected by the Department since 2005-06 when relevant questions were first included in the Survey of English Housing. In 2008 this survey was merged with the English House Condition Survey to form the English Housing Survey.

Estimates of the number of households in social housing headed by a foreign national are presented in the following table. The definition of 'foreign national' used is consistent with that used in published results from the Survey of English Housing; namely a foreign national is someone who is not a national of the UK or Ireland.

Social sector households headed by a foreign national, England

	Number of households in social housing (thousand)	*Proportion of all households in social housing (percentage)*
2005-06 and 2006-07	311	7.9
2006-07 and 2007-08	308	7.7

Note:
Estimates are presented as a two-year rolling average due to sample size considerations
Source:
Survey of English Housing

An estimate for 2007-08 and 2008-09 will be available on 27 October 2010 when the English Housing Survey Household Report 2008-09 is published.

Supporting People Programme

Paul Uppal: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will examine the effectiveness of operation of the formula used to calculate the grant to local authorities under the Supporting People programme in respect of *(a)* Wolverhampton and *(b)* other cities of comparable population. [19004]

Robert Neill: Decisions regarding the allocation of the Supporting People programme to local authorities have yet to be agreed. Further details on the allocation will be announced alongside the local government settlement in December.

Supporting People Programme: Finance

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the change in the budget for Supporting People *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in Sunderland local authority area in (i) cash and (ii) percentage terms in each of the next three years. [19367]

Robert Neill: My Department has minimised reductions to the Supporting People programme with £6.5 billion investment secured over the next four years. This represents reductions in Supporting People funding to just 12% staged gradually over the four year period. Further details on the local authority allocations will be announced alongside the local government settlement in December.

Travelling Showmen

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his plans are for the future of Planning Circular 04/2007 on travelling showpeople. [18880]

Andrew Stunell: In parallel with the intended revocation of Planning Circular 01/06 on Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Sites, the Government intend to revoke Planning Circular 04/2007 "Planning for Travelling Showpeople" subject to the necessary impact assessments and following a public consultation. The circular will be replaced with a short policy statement and light-touch guidance.

Ministerial Corrections

Monday 11 October 2010

DEFENCE

AWE: Manpower

John Woodcock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many staff are employed at the Atomic Weapons Establishment sites in *(a)* Aldermaston and *(b)* Burghfield. [14333]

[Official Report, 9 September 2010, Vol. 515, c. 621W.]

Letter of correction from Peter Luff:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Barrow and Furness (John Woodcock) on 9 September 2010.

The full answer given was as follows:

Peter Luff: Atomic Weapons Establishment plc employs 4,230 staff at the Aldermaston site and 340 staff at the Burghfield site. These numbers are full-time equivalent staff employed on 27 August 2010 and are rounded to the nearest 10.

In addition some 2,000 staff are employed by contractors at these sites.

The correct answer should have been:

Peter Luff: AWE plc employs 4,230 staff at the Aldermaston site and 340 staff at the Burghfield site. These numbers are full-time equivalent staff employed on 27 August 2010 and are rounded to the nearest 10.

In addition some 2,000 staff are employed by contractors at these sites.

AWE Aldermaston: Fires

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many incidents at the Atomic Weapons Establishment Aldermaston have resulted in attendance of the Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service in each year from 2006 to 2010; and on what dates each such incident occurred. [13469]

[Official Report, 9 September 2010, Vol. 515, c. 624W.]

Letter of correction from Peter Luff:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Brighton, Pavilion (Caroline Lucas) on 9 September 2010. The date for the false alarm event in March 2006 should have been the 12th, not the 19th.

The full answer given was as follows:

Peter Luff: Since 2006, there have been four events at the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) Aldermaston site where the Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (RBFRS) has been requested to attend. In addition, there have been three events where RBFRS acted as a stand-by resource while the AWE Fire and Rescue Service attended the event. These are summarised in the following table:

Date	*RBFRS involvement*	*Event*
3 August 2010	Attendance	Fire in explosives facility
9 January 2009	Attendance	Welding steel frame caused adjacent timber cladding and wall insulation fire
20 July 2007	Attendance	Pumping of flood water from medical building
17 October 2006	Attendance	High voltage equipment smoking and smell of burning
22 July 2006	Stand-by	Vehicle fire
29 June 2006	Stand-by	Small fire in a container during decommissioning operations
19 March 2006	Stand-by	False alarm

The correct answer should have been:

Peter Luff: Since 2006, there have been four events at the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) Aldermaston site where the Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (RBFRS) has been requested to attend. In addition, there have been three events where RBFRS acted as a stand-by resource while the AWE Fire and Rescue Service attended the event. These are summarised in the following table:

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22 July 2006	Stand-by	Vehicle fire
29 June 2006	Stand-by	Small fire in a container during decommissioning operations
12 March 2006	Stand-by	False alarm

Ministerial Correction

Tuesday 12 October 2010

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Short Money

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Leader of the House what formula is used for calculating Short money; when that formula was set; and what mechanism is used to monitor the usage of allocated funds. [14126]

[Official Report, 13 September 2010, Vol. 515, c. 743-44W.]

Letter of correction from Sir George Young:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Gillingham and Rainham (Rehman Chishti) on 13 September 2010.

The full answer given was as follows:

Sir George Young: For 2010-11, the formula used to calculate each Opposition party's Short money funding is: £14,351 multiplied by the number of seats won by a party's candidates at the general election; plus £27.99 multiplied by one two hundredth of the number of votes cast at the election. The formula was set by a resolution of the House of 26 May 1999 and has been uprated by increases in the retail prices index since then.

Each Opposition party that receives Short money is required to submit a report from an independent professional auditor, after the end of each financial year, that all the expenses for which the party received financial assistance under the terms of the resolution were incurred exclusively in connection with the party's parliamentary business. The relevant criteria are set out in notes provided to the auditors.

The correct answer should have been:

Sir George Young: For 2010-11 the formula used to calculate each Opposition party's Short money funding is: £14,351 multiplied by the number of seats won by a party's candidates at the general election; plus £28.66 multiplied by one two hundredth of the number of votes cast at the election. The formula was set by a resolution of the House of 26 May 1999 and has been uprated by increases in the retail prices index since then.

Each Opposition party that receives Short money is required to submit a report from an independent professional auditor, after the end of each financial year, that all the expenses for which the party received financial assistance under the terms of the resolution were incurred exclusively in connection with the party's parliamentary business. The relevant criteria are set out in notes provided to the auditors.

Ministerial Correction

Wednesday 13 October 2010

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Departmental Secondment

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many civil servants from each Government Department are on secondment to EU institutions. [9281]

[Official Report, 27 July 2010, Vol. 514, c. 967W.]

Letter of correction from Mr Lidington:

Errors have since been identified with the figures in my written answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Richmond Park (Zac Goldsmith) on 27 July 2010.

The full answer given was as follows:

Mr Lidington: There are approximately 110 British civil servants on secondment to the EU institutions.

The largest groups are from the following Departments:

Department for International Development: 19

Department for Business, Innovation and Skills: 10

Department for Transport: 16

Foreign and Commonwealth Office: nine

Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs: six

Her Majesty's Treasury: six

Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs: six.

The correct answer should have been:

Mr Lidington: There are approximately 108 British civil servants on secondment to the EU institutions.

The largest groups are from the following Departments:

Department for International Development: 17

Department for Business, Innovation and Skills: nine

Department for Transport: nine

Foreign and Commonwealth Office: seven

Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs: six

Her Majesty's Treasury: six

Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs: six.

Ministerial Correction

Wednesday 20 October 2010

CABINET OFFICE

The following is an extract from the speeches of the hon. Member for Slough (Fiona Mactaggart) and the Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office, the hon. Member for Forest of Dean (Mr Harper) in debate on Second Reading of the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill:

Fiona Mactaggart (Slough) (Lab): Let me say that the ward does not send Labour councillors to the borough; it elects Liberals, so no particular borough advantage was involved. However, the change respected the views of people about their communities. The real problem with the latter part of the Bill is that it does not do that. It specifically says that unitary authority boundaries—and all the authorities in Berkshire are unitary authorities—shall not be counted as local authority boundaries, so they are absolutely irrelevant. It also says that inconvenience to voters that comes out of the first boundary review shall be discounted by the Boundary Commission.

[Official Report, 6 September 2010, Vol. 515, c. 115.]

Mr Harper: I can assure the hon. Member for Slough (Fiona Mactaggart) that the reference in the Bill to "counties", which she discussed, does include unitary authorities. So the Boundary Commission for England will be able to take into account the boundaries of all the unitary authorities in Berkshire as it draws up new constituency boundaries, subject to the issues relating to parity.

[Official Report, 6 September 2010, Vol. 515, c. 129.]

Letter of correction from Mark Harper:

An error has been identified in the response given to the hon. Member for Slough (Fiona Mactaggart) on Second Reading of the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill on 6 September 2010.

The correct response should have been: "the reference in the Bill to "counties" does include unitary authorities but not those of Berkshire."